

Cleanup of Hanford's Contamination

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3 **WHEREAS** over a million gallons of high-level nuclear waste have leaked from tanks at Hanford,
4 and the contamination is spreading towards the Columbia River;

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6 **WHEREAS** Hanford is the most contaminated area of nuclear waste in the Western Hemisphere;
7 and instead of cleaning up the contamination, the Bush Administration continues to fight to use
8 Hanford as a national radioactive waste dump and to rename and abandon high-level nuclear
9 waste in leaking tanks;

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11 **WHEREAS** the Washington State Democrats supported Initiative 297, requiring cleanup of Hanford
12 before more waste can be dumped, and which the voters of Washington State passed in 2004 with
13 the highest vote ever in state history; and

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15 **WHEREAS** the federal Energy Department is nonetheless suing to overturn the will of
16 Washington's voters in order to use Hanford as a national radioactive waste dump for waste from
17 nuclear weapons plants, and to avoid emptying and cleaning up high-level nuclear waste tanks;

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19 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Democratic Party supports (a) implementing the principle
20 that existing wastes need to be cleaned up and in compliance with sound safety standards before
21 Washington State allows more waste to be disposed of at Hanford, and (b) continued defense of
22 Initiative 297 in the courts; and

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24 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party call upon
25 our Governor, our Attorney General and our State and National Senators and Representatives to
26 enact legislation on the principle that the clean up of existing wastes must be completed, and
27 undertaken using sound safety standards, before Washington State allows the disposal of additional
28 waste at the Hanford site and for their continued support in defense of Initiative 297 in the courts.
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31 Submitted by the Walla Walla County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
32 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/28/2008)

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34 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED A PASS" at
35 its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.

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37 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14, 2008 meeting
38 in Spokane.
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