

1 Washington State Deposit-Refund System for Beverage Containers

2
3 **WHEREAS** Washington State does not have a deposit-refund system for recycling beverage
4 containers;

5
6 **WHEREAS** costs of deposits are borne by manufacturers and distributors, who in turn pass
7 on some costs to consumers, which should encourage consumers to be aware of the costs to
8 recycle and importance to environment;

9
10 **WHEREAS** recycling, first, protects and expands Washington State and US manufacturing
11 jobs, second reduces the need for land filling and incineration, and lastly saves energy and
12 prevents pollution caused by the extraction and processing of virgin materials and the
13 manufacture of products using virgin materials;

14
15 **WHEREAS** the deposit-refund system combines a special front-end surcharge (the deposit)
16 on a particular substance or product with a refund payable to the consumer when quantities
17 of the substance or product in question are turned in for recycling or proper disposal. This
18 increase in beverage container prices can reduce the volume of waste that is reaching the
19 landfills and incinerators; and

20
21 **WHEREAS** deposit-refund systems can assist regulatory agencies in accomplishing their
22 enforcement and compliance program objectives by reducing the need for additional
23 regulatory resources while simultaneously augmenting agency efforts;

24
25 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party call upon the
26 Chairs of our State Senators and House of Representatives to propose that Washington State
27 establish a deposit-refund system for all beverage containers; and

28
29 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the amount of refund be established
30 through economic study and Washington State legislative council.

31
32
33 Submitted by the Grant County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
34 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 5/2/2008)

35
36 The Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" at its May 31, 2008 meeting in
37 Ellensburg.

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

41