

Supporting Public Ownership of PSE's Electric Utility Assets

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3 **WHEREAS** electric utilities are in many ways natural monopolies operating in a business
4 where competition among many companies would be inefficient and wasteful of natural
5 resources;

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7 **WHEREAS** the public has a vital long term interest in the integrity and financial strength of the
8 owners of electric utilities, as well as the owners' responsiveness to the public and its
9 government;

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11 **WHEREAS** electric utility facilities under the control of private investors with little connection
12 to our community, its values, goals and objectives are less likely to be managed in the best
13 fashion consistent with the public's long term interests;

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15 **WHEREAS** public ownership enhances local government's capacity to pursue the goals of
16 security, justice, equity, environmental objectives and community service obligations;

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18 **WHEREAS** public ownership ensures against a focus on short-term profits at the expense of
19 long-range investment that will benefit our community's future, and discourages lavish rewards
20 for top management that have impaired the efficiency and honesty of many unregulated
21 corporations in other industries;

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23 **WHEREAS** public ownership prevents undue political influence by top management of the
24 electric utility in a manner contrary to the public interest;

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26 **WHEREAS** greater public ownership strengthens community involvement in utility decision
27 making and governmental oversight;

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29 **WHEREAS** public ownership is more conducive than corporate ownership to services at
30 reasonable prices in rural as well as urban areas, a matter of high concern given Skagit County's
31 geographical diversity;

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33 **WHEREAS** electricity generated by the nation's rivers should benefit the public, and, in
34 particular, the communities located within those river systems;

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36 **WHEREAS** climate change will increasingly place a premium on our community's water and
37 sustainable energy resources, amplifying pressure by foreign corporate interests to secure those
38 resources for their own profit-making opportunities;

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40 **WHEREAS** it is in our interest to ensure that our community maintains adequate oversight and
41 control over our water resources, our river systems, and our sources of sustainable energy;

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43 **WHEREAS** numerous public utility districts within the State of Washington have safely and
44 reliably provided hydroelectric power to their communities for many decades, at rates far more
45 competitive than the national average; and
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47 **WHEREAS** the Democratic Party has historically supported public ownership of critical public
48 utility infrastructure such as that held by electric utilities for many of the reasons described
49 above;

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51 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats support a feasibility
52 study of public ownership of Puget Sound Energy, including the impact of the proposed
53 Macquarrie acquisition; and

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55 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Governor Christine Gregoire is urged to
56 lobby the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission regarding docket #U-072375 to
57 delay consideration of "The Matter of the Joint Application of Puget Holdings, LLC and Puget
58 Holdings, LLC and Puget Sound Energy, Inc," until the completion of the feasibility study.

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61 Submitted by the Skagit County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
62 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 5/27/2008)

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64 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED A
65 PASS" at its June 13, 2008 meeting in Spokane.

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

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