

Lift the Embargo of Cuba

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3 **WHEREAS** the United States economic, commercial, and financial embargo on Cuba (that was
4 imposed on February 7, 1962, and codified into law in 1992 as the Cuban Democracy Act with the
5 stated purpose of “bringing democracy to the Cuban people”, and was tightened in 1996 by the
6 Helms-Burton Act) restricts United States citizens from doing business in or with Cuba, and
7 mandates restrictions on giving public or private assistance to any successor “regime” in Havana
8 unless and until certain claims against the Cuban government are met;

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10 **WHEREAS** in 1999 the U.S. prohibited foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies to trade with Cuba;

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12 **WHEREAS** this is one of the few times in history that United States citizens have been restricted
13 from doing business abroad, and is the most enduring trade embargo in modern history;

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15 **WHEREAS** despite the existence of the embargo, the United States is still the 7th largest exporter to
16 Cuba, with 4.3% of Cuba’s imports coming from the U.S.;

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18 **WHEREAS** the United State participates in trade and unrestricted travel with other authoritarian
19 countries;

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21 **WHEREAS** in response to pressure from some American farmers and agribusinesses, the embargo
22 was relaxed by the Trade Sanctions reform and Export Enhancement Act in 2000, that allows the sale
23 of agricultural goods and medicines to Cuba for “humanitarian” reasons, so that now the U.S. is the
24 largest food supplier of Cuba;

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26 **WHEREAS** the Cuba embargo is increasingly unpopular and unprofitable for several U.S. private
27 business sectors, and mounting pressure from the oil, agriculture, and export industries is
28 solidifying the pro-engagement front in the current debate over Cuban policy; and

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30 **WHEREAS** growing ranks of U.S. politicians are recognizing changes now occurring in Cuba’s
31 government and are urging a review of U.S. policy shunning Cuba;

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33 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party calls upon the U.S.
34 government to end the economic, commercial, and financial embargo imposed on Cuba;

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36 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we support the United States allowing trade with
37 Cuba and unrestricted travel to and from Cuba, both for U.S. and Cuban citizens;

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39 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the United States recognize the government of
40 Cuba, and re-establish diplomatic relations acknowledging the common strategic and economic
41 interests of our separate nations and the Council on Hemispheric Affairs; and

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43 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that Washington State Democratic Party distribute
44 copies of this resolution to all Democratic members of the Washington State Congressional
45 delegation and Democratic Presidential Candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.
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48 Submitted by the 33rd LD Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its
49 June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/22/2008)

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

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

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