

1       **Resolution to Protect Farmers from Loss and Liability**  
2       **Due to the Drift of Genetically Engineered Material**  
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4       **WHEREAS** genetically engineered (GE) plants will foreseeably, and have been known  
5 to, disperse into the environment through pollen drift, seed commingling, and  
6 inadvertent transfer of seeds by humans, animals, vehicles, farm equipment, and  
7 weather events;

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9       **WHEREAS** courts have found that genetic drift of GE material can restrict the freedom  
10 of farmers to grow agricultural crops for organic and non-GE markets or for export  
11 markets that prohibit or restrict products contaminated by GE material;

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13       **WHEREAS** contamination by GE material of non-GE agricultural crops can create  
14 economic losses for the affected producers;

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16       **WHEREAS** the liability for the transfer of GE material is currently passed from  
17 manufacturers of GE plants to farmers and other property owners;

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19       **WHEREAS** farmers have been searched and sued by manufacturers and patent holders  
20 of GE crops for saving their own seed because the seed contains patented genetics; and

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22       **WHEREAS** contamination of the food and feed supply due to the production of food  
23 and feed crops containing human and animal pharmaceutical drugs and biologics  
24 designed to be biologically active in humans and animals, can impact public health,  
25 damage the seed supply, and cause economic loss for non-GE growers; and

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27       **WHEREAS** innocent farmers, farm businesses, and other property owners deserve to be  
28 shielded from legal and financial liabilities for the presence of GE material in their crops  
29 that occurred without their knowledge and is beyond their control;

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31       **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Central  
32 Committee (WSDCC) urge our legislators to sponsor legislation that will protect organic  
33 and non-GE farmers from liability and economic losses resulting from the drift of  
34 genetically engineered material;

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36       **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we, the WSDCC, urge our legislators  
37 to ensure that the State of Washington retains the authority and capacity to adequately  
38 monitor and document the planting of genetically engineered material in order to  
39 protect the agricultural economy, including the interests of non-GMO participants  
40 therein, and to mediate and enforce the law when necessary between manufacturers  
41 and farmers; and  
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43 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we, the WSDCC, urge our legislators  
44 to sponsor legislation to maintain sufficient knowledge of the presence of GE material  
45 in the State of Washington and to investigate what can be done in regard to providing  
46 adequate buffers from non-GE crops when necessary to preserve the economic freedom  
47 of farmers to grow agricultural crops for organic and non-GE markets or for export  
48 markets that prohibit or restrict products contaminated by GE material.  
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51 Submitted by the Jefferson County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic  
52 Central Committee for consideration at its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle. (Date  
53 Submitted 12/8/2009)

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55 Submitted by the Agriculture and Rural Caucus to the Washington State Democratic  
56 Central Committee for consideration at its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle. (Date  
57 Submitted 1/5/2010)

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59 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND  
60 RECOMMENDED A PASS" at its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle.

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62 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle.