

## Supporting Public Ownership of PSE's Electric Utility Assets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

44  
45 **WHEREAS** numerous public utility districts within the State of Washington have safely  
46 and reliably provided hydroelectric power to their communities for many decades, at  
47 rates far more competitive than the national average; and

48  
49 **WHEREAS** the Democratic Party has historically supported public ownership of critical  
50 public utility infrastructure such as that held by electric utilities for many of the reasons  
51 described above;

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

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

62

---

63  
64 Submitted by the Skagit County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for  
65 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 5/27/2008)

66  
67 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED  
68 A PASS" at its June 13, 2008 meeting in Spokane.

69  
70 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,  
71 2008 meeting in Spokane.