

1 **A Resolution in Support of Changing the “Community**
2 **Renewal Law” to Curb Eminent Domain Abuse**

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4 **WHEREAS** the existing legal definition of “blight” includes social factors such as high
5 unemployment, juvenile delinquency, crime, and poverty which allows a city to
6 designate entire areas as blighted so long as a few parcels are blighted and condemn
7 said parcels for redevelopment;

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9 **WHEREAS** the Community Renewal Law encourages the use of private enterprise to
10 redevelop blighted areas;

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12 **WHEREAS** the Law does not address the needs of the families who are unnecessarily
13 displaced even though their property was not blighted and who although compensated
14 at current property use value, are often not compensated enough to buy back into their
15 own community, or to buy elsewhere;

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17 **WHEREAS** the broad applications of blight designations for entire areas are an affront
18 to the peace and welfare of Washington State families and to their basic property rights;
19 and

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21 **WHEREAS** the Washington State Democratic Party believes that eminent domain
22 should only be used to condemn truly blighted specific properties, not entire areas
23 which often include non-blighted properties as often is the case with “planners blight”
24 and some other blight designations;

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26 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central
27 Committee call on all Legislators to support passage of legislation to support narrowing
28 the definition of “blight” in the Community Renewal Law so that findings of blight
29 shall be parcel specific instead of entire areas.

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32 Submitted by the Agriculture and Rural Caucus to the Washington State Democratic
33 Central Committee for consideration at its October 9, 2010 meeting in Moses Lake. (Date
34 Submitted 9/22/2010)

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36 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee “AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND
37 RECOMMENDED A PASS” at its October 8, 2010 meeting in Moses Lake.

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39 The WSDCC “PASSED” this resolution at its October 9, 2010 meeting in Moses Lake.