

Cleanup of Hanford's Contamination

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3 **WHEREAS** over a million gallons of high-level nuclear waste have leaked from tanks at
4 Hanford, and the contamination is spreading towards the Columbia River;

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6 **WHEREAS** Hanford is the most contaminated area of nuclear waste in the Western
7 Hemisphere; and instead of cleaning up the contamination, the Bush Administration
8 continues to fight to use Hanford as a national radioactive waste dump and to rename
9 and abandon high-level nuclear waste in leaking tanks;

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11 **WHEREAS** the Washington State Democrats supported Initiative 297, requiring
12 cleanup of Hanford before more waste can be dumped, and which the voters of
13 Washington State passed in 2004 with the highest vote ever in state history; and

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15 **WHEREAS** the federal Energy Department is nonetheless suing to overturn the will of
16 Washington's voters in order to use Hanford as a national radioactive waste dump for
17 waste from nuclear weapons plants, and to avoid emptying and cleaning up high-level
18 nuclear waste tanks;

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20 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Democratic Party supports (a) implementing
21 the principle that existing wastes need to be cleaned up and in compliance with sound
22 safety standards before Washington State allows more waste to be disposed of at
23 Hanford, and (b) continued defense of Initiative 297 in the courts; and

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25 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
26 Party call upon our Governor, our Attorney General and our State and National
27 Senators and Representatives to enact legislation on the principle that the clean up of
28 existing wastes must be completed, and undertaken using sound safety standards,
29 before Washington State allows the disposal of additional waste at the Hanford site and
30 for their continued support in defense of Initiative 297 in the courts.

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33 Submitted by the Walla Walla County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee
34 for consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/28/2008)

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

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39 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,
40 2008 meeting in Spokane.