

# Washington State Deposit-Refund System for Beverage Containers

**WHEREAS** Washington State does not have a deposit-refund system for recycling beverage containers;

**WHEREAS** costs of deposits are borne by manufacturers and distributors, who in turn pass on some costs to consumers, which should encourage consumers to be aware of the costs to recycle and importance to environment;

**WHEREAS** recycling, first, protects and expands Washington State and US manufacturing jobs, second reduces the need for land filling and incineration, and lastly saves energy and prevents pollution caused by the extraction and processing of virgin materials and the manufacture of products using virgin materials;

**WHEREAS** the deposit-refund system combines a special front-end surcharge (the deposit) on a particular substance or product with a refund payable to the consumer when quantities of the substance or product in question are turned in for recycling or proper disposal. This increase in beverage container prices can reduce the volume of waste that is reaching the landfills and incinerators; and

**WHEREAS** deposit-refund systems can assist regulatory agencies in accomplishing their enforcement and compliance program objectives by reducing the need for additional regulatory resources while simultaneously augmenting agency efforts;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party call upon the Chairs of our State Senators and House of Representatives to propose that Washington State establish a deposit-refund system for all beverage containers; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the amount of refund be established through economic study and Washington State legislative council.

---

Submitted by the Grant County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 5/2/2008)

The Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" at its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.

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