

Groundwater Contamination

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3 **WHEREAS** the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency asked agencies that have a role to
4 play in groundwater management to apply their collective resources to providing
5 recommendations and solutions to the complex nitrate problem in the Yakima Valley;
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7 **WHEREAS** the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has indentified manure
8 fromCAFOs (concentrated animal feedlot operations) as a significant source of
9 groundwater nitrates and has announced plans to publish point-source findings later this
10 year;
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12 **WHEREAS** the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency selected Yakima Valley as a
13 demonstration region for Environmental Justice;
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15 **WHEREAS** the 2009 Report of the President’s Cancer Panel found that nitrates are linked
16 to a variety of cancers;
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18 **WHEREAS** the Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production found that
19 CAFOs are serious threats to water quality; and
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21 **WHEREAS** the American Public Health Association has called for a moratorium on the
22 construction of CAFOs due to the adverse impacts they have on public health including
23 the contamination of drinking water;
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25 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats vigorously
26 encourage Governor Gregoire and our state legislature to ensure enforcement of current
27 laws and regulations, with complete reviews by the Washington State Health Department
28 of permits for new or expanded CAFOs;
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30 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats
31 urge the Washington State Congressional Delegation to support the Environmental
32 Protection Agency’s demonstration region for Environmental Justice in the Yakima
33 Valley; and
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35 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be
36 transmitted to relevant officials along with a request for response within thirty days,
37 listing the actions they are willing to take to support this resolution or a list of the
38 reasons explaining why it cannot be supported.
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41 Submitted with appropriate signatures by the Yakima County Democrats to the
42 Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its June 26 convention in
43 Vancouver. (Date Submitted 5/27/2010)
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45 Recommended Pass by the State Convention Platform Committee. (Date Considered
46 6/25/2010)

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48 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 26,
49 2010 meeting in Vancouver.