

## Resolution on Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

1  
2  
3  
4 **WHEREAS**, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) is a pristine wilderness area  
5 that is home to caribou, polar bears, musk oxen, arctic foxes, wolverines, grizzlies and  
6 snow geese, all of which depend on its fragile, unique ecosystem for survival; and  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, ANWR represents the only protected area in the world that includes an  
9 intact arctic, sub arctic, and boreal ecosystem, thus retaining the natural dynamics that  
10 have existed for thousands of years; and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the proposed oil and gas development would occur on the 1.5-million acre  
13 coastal plain found along the Beaufort Sea, which is the most sensitive area in the entire  
14 refuge and any habitat loss that occurs here will impact the entire Arctic Refuge. Its  
15 narrowness will limit the alternatives for animals displaced by industrial activity; and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, Geologists estimate that only a few months' supply of oil lies beneath the  
18 refuge and that it will take ten years of exploration and development before any reaches  
19 the market; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, promotion of fuel efficiency and conservation would be cheaper and less  
22 environmentally damaging than drilling in ANWR; and  
23

24 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Washington State Democratic Party  
25 supports continued protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, including  
26 prohibiting drilling within the Refuge and any disruption to the animals or habitat  
27 therein, and establishment of a Wilderness designation to provide permanent protection  
28 to the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.  
29

---

30  
31 Submitted by the Chelan County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Party  
32 for consideration at its June 3, 2006 convention in Yakima (Date Submitted 04/08/2006).  
33

34 The Washington State Democratic Party at its State Convention on June 3, 2006 in  
35 Yakima referred this resolution to the WSDCC Resolutions Committee for review at its  
36 September 9 - 10, 2006 meeting in Ellensburg.  
37

38 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee amended this resolution and recommended a  
39 "Pass" at its September 10, 2006 meeting in Ellensburg. The Committee replaced the  
40 "THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED" section of this resolution with the same section from  
41 resolution 143. The resolution will be forwarded to the WSDCC at its next meeting on  
42 September 29 - 30, 2006 in Tacoma.  
43

44 The WSDCC passed this resolution as amended at its September 30, 2006 meeting in  
45 Tacoma.