

Ending the U.S. Occupation of Iraq

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3 **WHEREAS** the war and occupation of Iraq has continued for five years with no
4 prospect of resolution;

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6 **WHEREAS** the invasion and occupation have created a severe burden on our economy,
7 stretched the capacity of our armed forces including Reserve and National Guard
8 troops who are serving unexpectedly long and difficult tours in Iraq, and continues to
9 cause deep concern at home and abroad about the policies and intentions of the United
10 States to the point where the United States is widely regarded with suspicion, hostility
11 and distrust;

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13 **WHEREAS** thousands of American soldiers have been killed and tens of thousands of
14 American soldiers have been wounded;

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16 **WHEREAS** the occupation of Iraq has provided a hotbed of recruiting and training for
17 terrorists;

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19 **WHEREAS** the war has left all Iraqi citizens with severely damaged infrastructure,
20 widespread hunger, homelessness, disease, and death, and in addition has deprived
21 women of rights they had before the war by giving considerable power to extremist
22 religious interests that oppose women's interests;

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24 **WHEREAS** the unemployment rate of Iraqis now exceeds sixty percent while American
25 contractors and corporations hoard the benefits of Iraq's natural resources;

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27 **WHEREAS** over 12 billion dollars per month is being spent for the Iraq occupation,
28 taking dollars away from priorities at home such as reducing the deficit, rebuilding our
29 roads and bridges, introducing universal healthcare, expanding social services,
30 exploring alternative energy sources, and increased investment in education from pre-
31 school through college;

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33 **WHEREAS** our occupation of Iraq fuels the insurgency, which prolongs the destruction
34 of Iraqi communities and infrastructure; and

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36 **WHEREAS** the American and Iraqi people overwhelmingly oppose the occupation;

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38 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party supports
39 an end to this occupation of Iraq and the responsible and swift withdrawal of our
40 military from Iraq;

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42 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
43 Party supports our troops by recognizing their brave sacrifices and that soldiers in
44 combat and support missions are not the focus of opposition to the occupation;

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46 **THEREFORE BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party
47 support returning complete sovereignty in their economic and political affairs to the
48 people of Iraq, including control of Iraqi oil;

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50 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
51 Party call for long-term support for reconstruction to address the destruction caused by
52 the U.S. invasion, military occupation, and 13 years of economic sanctions;

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54 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
55 Party calls for the U.S. government to reject plans for a long-term presence in Iraq,
56 except for those associated with normal diplomatic relations;

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58 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
59 Party calls for vigorous U.S. support for an internationally led regional stabilization and
60 peace process that includes all of Iraq's neighbors;

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62 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress halt any attempt by the
63 Bush Administration to forge any and all treaties or binding commitments that would
64 obligate future administrations to provide military support to Iraq; and

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66 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that Washington State Democratic Party
67 distribute copies of this resolution to all Democratic members of the Washington State
68 Congressional Delegation and Democratic Presidential Candidates Hillary Clinton and
69 Barack Obama.

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72 Submitted by the King County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
73 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/21/2008)

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

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78 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,
79 2008 meeting in Spokane.