

Banning Cluster Bombs

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3 **WHEREAS** the use of cluster bombs is a military strategy directly targeting civilian
4 populations, particularly small children, contravening the Third Article of the Geneva
5 Conventions;

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7 **WHEREAS** one sort of cluster bomb, the CBU (cluster bomb unit) 26, widely used by
8 the United States in Laos, is an anti-personnel fragmentation bomb consisting of a large
9 bombshell holding 670 tennis ball-sized bomblets, each of which contains 300 metal
10 fragments. If all bomblets detonate, some 200,000 steel fragments will be propelled over
11 an area the size of several football fields, creating a deadly killing zone. B1 bombers can
12 carry enough cluster bombs to turn an area the size of 350 football fields into a killing
13 zone;

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15 **WHEREAS** because cluster bombs have a high dud rate, estimated to be 10 to 30
16 percent, unexploded cluster bombs lie on the ground becoming, in actuality, super
17 landmines which can explode at the slightest touch. These “duds” are a serious, long-
18 lasting threat to civilians, soldiers, peacekeepers and bomb clearance experts. Children,
19 who are attracted to the bomblets’ bright colors and interesting shapes, are especially
20 vulnerable and represent a high percentage of victims;

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22 **WHEREAS** one hundred and eleven nations belonging to the civilized world have
23 signed on to a treaty banning cluster bombs because of these bombs’ harmful effects
24 upon civilian populations; and

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26 **WHEREAS** the United States has refused to ratify this treaty;

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28 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party shall
29 work to bring about the United States’ participation in banning cluster bombs and to
30 use that power to bring about worldwide banning of cluster bombs; and

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32 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Washington State Democratic Party
33 distribute copies of this resolution to all Democratic members of the Washington State
34 Congressional delegation and Democratic Presidential Candidates Hillary Clinton and
35 Barack Obama.

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

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41 The Resolutions Committee “AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED
42 A PASS” at its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.

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44 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,
45 2008 meeting in Spokane.