

Lift the Embargo of Cuba

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3 **WHEREAS** the United States economic, commercial, and financial embargo on Cuba
4 (that was imposed on February 7, 1962, and codified into law in 1992 as the Cuban
5 Democracy Act with the stated purpose of “bringing democracy to the Cuban people”,
6 and was tightened in 1996 by the Helms-Burton Act) restricts United States citizens
7 from doing business in or with Cuba, and mandates restrictions on giving public or
8 private assistance to any successor “regime” in Havana unless and until certain claims
9 against the Cuban government are met;

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11 **WHEREAS** in 1999 the U.S. prohibited foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies to trade
12 with Cuba;

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14 **WHEREAS** this is one of the few times in history that United States citizens have been
15 restricted from doing business abroad, and is the most enduring trade embargo in
16 modern history;

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18 **WHEREAS** despite the existence of the embargo, the United States is still the 7th largest
19 exporter to Cuba, with 4.3% of Cuba’s imports coming from the U.S.;

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21 **WHEREAS** the United State participates in trade and unrestricted travel with other
22 authoritarian countries;

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24 **WHEREAS** in response to pressure from some American farmers and agribusinesses,
25 the embargo was relaxed by the Trade Sanctions reform and Export Enhancement Act
26 in 2000, that allows the sale of agricultural goods and medicines to Cuba for
27 “humanitarian” reasons, so that now the U.S. is the largest food supplier of Cuba;

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29 **WHEREAS** the Cuba embargo is increasingly unpopular and unprofitable for several
30 U.S. private business sectors, and mounting pressure from the oil, agriculture, and
31 export industries is solidifying the pro-engagement front in the current debate over
32 Cuban policy; and

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34 **WHEREAS** growing ranks of U.S. politicians are recognizing changes now occurring in
35 Cuba’s government and are urging a review of U.S. policy shunning Cuba;

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37 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party calls
38 upon the U.S. government to end the economic, commercial, and financial embargo
39 imposed on Cuba;

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41 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we support the United States
42 allowing trade with Cuba and unrestricted travel to and from Cuba, both for U.S. and
43 Cuban citizens;

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45 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the United States recognize the
46 government of Cuba, and re-establish diplomatic relations acknowledging the common
47 strategic and economic interests of our separate nations and the Council on
48 Hemispheric Affairs; and

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50 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that Washington State Democratic Party
51 distribute copies of this resolution to all Democratic members of the Washington State
52 Congressional delegation and Democratic Presidential Candidates Hillary Clinton and
53 Barack Obama.

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56 Submitted by the 33rd LD Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
57 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/22/2008)

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

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62 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,
63 2008 meeting in Spokane.