

## Resolution on Trade Policy: A Fair Way Forward

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3 **WHEREAS** trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement  
4 (NAFTA), the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and the World Trade  
5 Organization (WTO) have given multi-national corporations sweeping powers to  
6 challenge signatory nations' labor, environmental, occupational, and food safety  
7 standards and to strike down democratically enacted laws;

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9 **WHEREAS** at least 3,000,000 U.S. manufacturing jobs have been lost since 1994 as a  
10 direct result of the NAFTA trade model, while poorer nations compete in a "race to the  
11 bottom" - attracting U.S. foreign investment by offering the lowest wages and weakest  
12 worker and environmental protections;

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14 **WHEREAS** a majority of the Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2007  
15 voted against another NAFTA-model trade deal, the Peru Free Trade Agreement;

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17 **WHEREAS** such trade deals encourage below-production-cost dumping of agricultural  
18 products on world markets, to the detriment of farmers and rural communities in the  
19 United States and around the world;

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21 **WHEREAS** the Bush administration's status-quo trade agenda, which included further  
22 bilateral trade deals with Colombia, South Korea and Panama, was repudiated by  
23 voters in the 2008 election;

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25 **WHEREAS** these Bush holdover trade deals would bring forth further negative effects  
26 of the types seen in other "free" trade deals - threatening U.S. jobs and the environment  
27 worldwide, hurting family farmers, continuing to depress food- and product-safety  
28 standards, limiting a country's right to access affordable medicines, and giving foreign  
29 corporations greater rights than those enjoyed by U.S. businesses;

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31 **WHEREAS** a majority of Democrats in the House in 2009 co-sponsored HR  
32 3012/S.2821, the Trade Reform, Accountability, Development, and Employment  
33 ("TRADE") Act, in order to give a more balanced way to expand trade; and

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35 **WHEREAS** the Supreme Court decision in the 2010 "Citizens United" case will allow  
36 unprecedented corporate and foreign campaign money into our elections, leading to  
37 even more unfair trade agreements;

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39 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Democratic State Convention, oppose  
40 approval of the Colombia, South Korea and Panama Free Trade Agreements;

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43 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we, the Democratic State Convention,  
44 support the TRADE Act, HR 3012/S.2821, currently co-sponsored by at least 136  
45 members of the House of Representatives, including a majority of House Democrats;  
46 and

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48 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that this resolution be forwarded to our  
49 state Congressional delegation along with a request for response within thirty days,  
50 listing the actions they are willing to take to support this resolution or a list of the  
51 reasons explaining why it cannot be supported.  
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54 Submitted by the 32<sup>nd</sup> LD Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for  
55 consideration at its June 26 convention in Vancouver. (Date Submitted 4/21/2010)

56  
57 Submitted by the 46<sup>th</sup> LD Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for  
58 consideration at its June 26 convention in Vancouver. (Date Submitted 4/26/2010)

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60 Recommended Pass by the Subcommittee on Foreign Policy, Government and Political  
61 Reform, and the Military. (Date Considered 5/2/2010)

62  
63 Recommended Pass with amendments by the State Convention Platform Committee.  
64 (Date Considered 6/5/2010)

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66 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 26,  
67 2010 meeting in Vancouver.