

A Resolution to End the US Occupation and Air War in Afghanistan

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4 **WHEREAS** the United States of America, as the leader of a multinational United
5 Nations sanctioned armed forces invaded Afghanistan in 2001 and overthrew the
6 despotic and violent Taliban government;

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8 **WHEREAS** the plight of women and children in Afghanistan is such that they continue
9 to bear an especially heavy price under an eight-year occupation, and that far from
10 eradicating the Taliban and other insurgencies, our presence has instead strengthened
11 them, creating greater insecurity, death and impoverishment of the Afghan people, and
12 Afghanistan's 23.4 million people are among the poorest in the world, with
13 53% living in poverty; annual per capital income is \$800, ranked 219 out of 229 nations;
14 life expectancy is 44 years, ranked 214 out of 244 nations; the literacy rate is 28.1%;
15 about one million Afghans are physically handicapped as a result of land mines and
16 other calamities of war and poverty and Afghanistan, in order to make money, is the
17 world's largest opium producer;

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19 **WHEREAS** polls show a majority of Americans are increasingly disturbed about the
20 human toll of killed and wounded troops that the US occupation of Afghanistan is
21 taking on 98,000 young men and women serving there and on their families;

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23 **WHEREAS** the war has cost the United States \$43 billion per year, and will rise by one
24 billion a year for each additional 1,000 American troops sent to Afghanistan and our
25 involvement there in May 2010 costs over a billion dollars each week, with the result
26 that the United States Federal Government, states, and counties, are in an economic
27 crisis without money to maintain County and US public infrastructure and to make
28 available necessary basic social services including healthcare to the people throughout
29 the nation; and

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31 **WHEREAS** the Washington State Democratic Party, concerned citizens, and lawmakers
32 are calling for a US exit strategy from Afghanistan that will end the occupation and air
33 war, while ensuring the safety and security of our troops, our nation, and the region
34 and the Honorable Karl Eikenberry (LtGen, USA, Ret.), United States Ambassador to
35 Afghanistan, has expressed his informed concern about corruption in the Afghan
36 government and the inability of any non-Afghan force to stabilize the situation;

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39 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats call for an end
40 to the air war in Afghanistan, the development of a one-year time-table for withdrawal
41 of all armed forces as provided in H.R. 5015, conversion of non-mobile military assets of
42 the United States of America to non-military uses for the Afghan people and a
43 redirection of our funding and resources to include an increase in humanitarian and
44 developmental aid, multiparty talks which are aimed at ensuring a democratic and
45 legitimate representation of the people of Afghanistan, as well as multiparty regional
46 diplomacy for the safety and stability of neighboring countries;

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48 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the future spending for operations in
49 Afghanistan be funded by an operations tax along the lines of the "Share the Sacrifice
50 Act" proposed by Rep. David Obey, Rep. John Murtha, Rep. Charlie Rangel, Rep.
51 Barney Frank, and others; and

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53 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be sent to the
54 Washington Democratic Congressional delegation, as well as to the President of the
55 United States along with a request for response within thirty days, listing the actions
56 they are willing to take to support this resolution or a list of the reasons explaining why
57 it cannot be supported.

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60 Submitted by the 28th LD Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
61 consideration at its June 26 convention in Vancouver. (Date Submitted 4/1/2010)

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63 Submitted by the Pierce County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
64 consideration at its June 26 convention in Vancouver. (Date Submitted 4/20/2010)

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66 Recommended Pass with amendments by the Subcommittee on Foreign Policy,
67 Government and Political Reform, and the Military. (Date Considered 5/2/2010)

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69 Recommended Pass with amendments by the State Convention Platform Committee.
70 (Date Considered 6/5/2010)

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72 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 26,
73 2010 meeting in Vancouver.