

## Resolution on Fair Trade

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3 **BE IT RESOLVED:** As citizens of Washington State, the Washington State Democratic  
4 Party supports policies that promote fair trade, equitable development, and the greater  
5 public good. To this end, we endorse the following fair trade principles:  
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7 **Investment Rules that Uphold the Public Interest** – Investors should not be granted  
8 special rights – such as those in NAFTA’s Chapter 11 or CAFTA’s Chapter 10 – to  
9 challenge environmental, public health, and other regulations enacted by law for the  
10 public’s interest. Furthermore, dispute resolution should not be handled by secret  
11 tribunals, but instead through established state, national, and international legal  
12 systems.  
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14 **Responsible Maintenance of Public Goods and Services** – Trade agreements must  
15 support governments’ right to maintain essential public services (e.g., public health  
16 programs) and to regulate private-sector services on behalf of their citizen’s welfare.  
17 Trade agreements must also preserve the right of federal, state, and local governments  
18 to maintain procurement policies that reflect public values, including green  
19 procurement, prevailing wage laws, and preferences for local labor, or small, minority-  
20 or women-owned businesses.  
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22 **Environmental, Labor, Health, and Human-Rights Standards** – Trade agreements  
23 must include provisions that encourage and protect strong labor and environmental  
24 practices, including the core labor standards of the International Labor Organization.  
25 These provisions must be subject to the same enforcement as that for commercial  
26 provisions. Trade agreements should not supercede rights and obligations granted  
27 under multilateral environmental, labor, health, and human rights agreements solely to  
28 boost trade, but instead should act as a means to further reinforce these rights and  
29 obligations.  
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31 **Agriculture and Food Security** – Trade agreements must not restrict government’s  
32 ability to protect their food supply, rural development programs, and small farmers.  
33 Trade agreements must not prevent countries from developing necessary standards to  
34 prevent invasive species and preserve food safety. Trade agreements must not interfere  
35 with the consumer’s right to know where and how food is produced.  
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37 **Balance Approach to Patent Interests** – Trade agreements must reflect an appropriate  
38 balance between commercial patent interests and the legitimate public interest in  
39 ensuring access to life-saving medicines for HIV/AIDS and other critical diseases, in  
40 protecting biodiversity, and in protecting the traditional rights of farmers and  
41 indigenous peoples to utilize seed and other natural materials.  
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43 **Development** – Developing countries must be given assistance and realistic time-tables  
44 to prepare for the impact of more open markets, and the benefits of market openings  
45 must be equitable for each trading partner. International trade often disrupts local and  
46 national economies and forces people to migrate to survive. Trade agreements must  
47 respect the rights of immigrants and include policies that provide pathways to  
48 citizenship and defend immigrants’ rights at the workplace.

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50 **Transparency and Participation** – Negotiations and dispute resolution activities related  
51 to trade agreements should be conducted in a democratic and open manner, allowing  
52 all stakeholders equal standing to participate. During trade negotiations, governments  
53 should promptly disclose full negotiating texts and governments’ offers to negotiate  
54 sensitive issues. Within the agreement itself, there must be an open, transparent, and  
55 accessible dispute resolution system based on established state, national, and  
56 international legal systems.

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58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central  
59 Committee urge our congressional delegation to oppose trade agreements that do not  
60 uphold these principles.

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62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution will be transmitted to our  
63 congressional delegations.

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66 Submitted to the WSDCC for consideration at its September 17, 2005 meeting in Everett  
67 by the Washington State Progressive Caucus of the Democratic Central Committee  
68 (9/16/2005)

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70 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee did not take action on this resolution at its  
71 September 17, 2005 meeting in Everett. It will readdress this resolution at its November  
72 12, 2005 meeting in Ocean Shores.

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74 The resolution was not brought to the floor of the WSDCC meeting for consideration at  
75 its September 17, 2005 meeting in Everett.

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77 Referred to the WSDCC with a recommendation of “Pass” by the Resolutions  
78 Committee at its November 12, 2005 meeting in Ocean Shores.

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80 Passed by the WSDCC at its November 12, 2005 meeting in Ocean Shores.