

Resolution Regarding US Border Vigilante Operations

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3 **WHEREAS**, a just society that respects civil rights of all people should be the goal of all
4 Washington State residents; and

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6 **WHEREAS**, the Washington State Democratic Party works to uphold and protect
7 human and civil rights, and is committed to including and representing all people; and

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9 **WHEREAS** the activities of self-appointed militia or vigilante groups with limited
10 training and no legal authority present a potential danger to the safety and well-being
11 of society and all members of that society who might become the victim or inadvertent
12 targets of such activities; and

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14 **WHEREAS** the existence and activities of vigilante groups in other regions have created
15 fear; an atmosphere of racism and violence; and increased suspicion, intolerance, and
16 even hate in those regions; and

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18 **WHEREAS** the presence of vigilante border militia groups, such as the Minuteman
19 Civil Defense Corps operation on our nation's southern borders, can create a negative
20 image for our region and harm our local economy as has occurred in the state of Idaho
21 and is occurring in Tombstone, Arizona; and

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23 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Washington State Democratic Party opposes
24 any effort to deputize, finance, or otherwise encourage the presence of self-appointed
25 vigilante groups within Washington State who might take into their own hands the
26 legal authority vested in our law enforcement officials and those of the federal and state
27 governments; and

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29 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
30 Party Chair, Paul Berendt, use all means available to call upon Governor Christine
31 Gregoire to follow the example of New Mexico's governor, Bill Richardson, and
32 Arizona's governor, Janet Napolitano, who publicly stated to the Minuteman Corps,
33 "We do not need you"; and

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35 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we support limiting border patrol
36 enforcement activities to the highly trained, professional agents of the U.S. Border
37 Patrol and/or the National Guard; and

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39 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
40 Party and the Democratic National Committee endorse this resolution and actively
41 support implementing these positions as state and national policy; and

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43 **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to all state
44 party central committee members; to all elected Democratic officials at the local, state

45 and federal levels; and that a press release be sent to all major media outlets (broadcast,
46 print, and electronic) in Washington State.

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49 Submitted to the WSDCC for consideration at its September 17, 2005 meeting in Everett
50 (9/16/2005)

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52 Referred to the WSDCC with a recommendation of "Pass" by the Resolutions
53 Committee at its September 17, 2005 meeting in Everett.

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55 Passed by the WSDCC at its September 17, 2005 meeting in Everett.

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57 Passed by the DNC at its December, 2005 meeting in Phoenix, AZ

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60 From: Jeff Smith and/or Karen Marchioro [mailto:klm@nwlink.com]

61 Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2005 7:06 PM

62 To: Jeff Smith and/or Karen Marchioro

63 Subject: Resolution on border vigilante

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65 We've all read about the vigilantes who patrolled to Mexican border as the
66 "Minutemen", insinuating themselves into the task of stopping the flow of illegal
67 crossings into the country. But few have noticed that the same organization mobilized
68 other vigilante corps to patrol the Canadian border as well. In October they staked out
69 the border in Washington State's Whatcom County at the crossings that lead to and
70 from Vancouver, B.C.

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72 Earlier this year, the Whatcom County Democratic Party passed a resolution calling for
73 an end to this practice. The Resolution was subsequently passed by the Washington
74 State Democratic Central Committee at its meeting in September. I and other members
75 of Washington State's delegation will submit this resolution to the D.N.C. Resolutions
76 Committee before the deadline of November 10th for consideration at the Phoenix
77 meeting.

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79 Below is a copy of that resolution. Please let me know if you would like to join as a
80 cosponsor to this Resolution or would like to submit one of your own to the Committee
81 for their consideration.

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83 Thank you in advance for your help,

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85 Karen Marchioro

86 Chair of the Western Regional Caucus