

1 **Industrial Insurance Coverage for Hanford Workers**
2 **- Special Agreement**

3 **WHEREAS** many workers and retirees are living with illnesses and diseases related to
4 occupational chemical and/or radiation exposures on the Hanford reservation;

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6 **WHEREAS** employees are left struggling just to receive basic medical or disability
7 coverage due to lack of access to personal exposure and medical records as a result of
8 RCW 51.04.130;

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10 **WHEREAS** in 2001 the Secretary of Energy ordered the Hanford United States
11 Department of Energy (USDOE) facility and contractors to stop fighting valid workers'
12 compensation claims;

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14 **WHEREAS** the Secretary of Energy's above-stated policy was never implemented;

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16 **WHEREAS** the contractors simply appeal and extend the decision-making process -
17 sometimes lasting up to twelve (12) years, sick workers have been forced to endure
18 many medical exams at their own expense;

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20 **WHEREAS** this decision-making process is an expensive process for the employees and
21 has required some to take out a second mortgage, caused some to be fired, caused
22 workplace harassment and undue family stress;

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24 **WHEREAS** the University of Washington in performing medical studies concerning
25 this issue has been restricted from receiving essential medical and exposure
26 information;

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28 **WHEREAS** Washington State has the power to change or remove RCW 41.04.130;

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30 **WHEREAS** by doing so, it would save Washington State taxpayers millions of dollars;

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32 **WHEREAS** there is no longer a fear for national security as this is only a hazardous
33 waste cleanup site now;

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35 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Benton County Democratic Central
36 Committee call on our State Legislators to change or remove RCW 51.04.130 and allow
37 Washington State Department of Labor and Industries to run the Workers'
38 Compensation Program with the Washington State Department of Ecology as oversight
39 to protect workers' rights under state and federal hazard laws as

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41 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Washington State appoint a
42 Washington State Toxicologist and Washington State Industrial Hygienist to the
43 Hanford site.

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46 Submitted by the Benton County Democratic Central Committee to the WSDCC for
47 consideration at its September 29, 2006 meeting in Tacoma, WA (Date Submitted
48 8/14/2006)

49 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee recommended a "Pass" on this resolution at its
50 September 10, 2006 meeting in Ellensburg. The resolution will be forwarded to the
51 WSDCC at its next meeting on September 29 - 30, 2006 in Tacoma.

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53 The WSDCC passed this resolution at its September 30, 2006 meeting in Tacoma.