

1                                   **Re-Focus Border Patrol Operations to**  
2                                   **Interdiction at the Border**

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4   **WHEREAS** there has been an expansion of mission, facilities, and personnel of the U.S.  
5   Border Patrol under the Department of Homeland Security including plans for  
6   increased detention capabilities;

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8   **WHEREAS** this expansion comes at a time of reduced funding for basic government  
9   services;

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11   **WHEREAS** the US Border Patrol is placing random checkpoints on highways away  
12   from the border and conducting internal patrols within communities;

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14   **WHEREAS** the location of checkpoints, the frequency of stops, and the venues selected  
15   for community surveillance raise concerns of racial profiling;

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17   **WHEREAS** ordinary crime control is the responsibility of local law enforcement  
18   agencies and Border Patrol intrusion into their jurisdictions interferes with community  
19   policing strategies that build long-term relationships of trust and accountability;

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21   **WHEREAS** judicial precedent states that checkpoints must have an actual connection  
22   with substantial traffic from a proximate border and are not to be used for ordinary  
23   crime control purposes, raising questions about the legality of the current program; and

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25   **WHEREAS** Congressman Norm Dicks and Senator Maria Cantwell have expressed  
26   similar concerns in letters to Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security;

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28   **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Central  
29   Committee, call for a suspension of expanded Border Patrol activities away from the  
30   border until their utility, legality and constitutionality have been determined by the U.S.  
31   Congress and courts;

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33   **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that during this suspension we call for an  
34   evaluation of the utility of the current expansion of Border Patrol mission, facilities and  
35   personnel, and an evaluation of the opportunity costs of this federal expenditure while  
36   core government services are being cut for lack of funding;

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38   **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call on local law enforcement  
39   officers to continue to uphold their sworn oath to protect the constitutional rights and  
40   liberties of the members of our communities; and

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43 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic  
44 Central Committee, urge our elected federal officials to pursue a reformed approach to  
45 securing our border which focuses on interdiction at the border, preserves  
46 constitutional protections and respects local law enforcement.  
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49 Submitted by the Jefferson County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic  
50 Central Committee for consideration at its April 25, 2009 meeting in Tacoma. (Date  
51 Submitted 4/8/2009)  
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53 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" on this resolution at  
54 its April 24, 2009 meeting in Tacoma.  
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56 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its April 25, 2009 meeting in Tacoma.