

Depleted Uranium Study and Test

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3 **WHEREAS** the U.S. military uses depleted uranium (DU), a low-level radioactive
4 heavy metal with a half-life of 4.5 billion years, to harden various munitions;

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6 **WHEREAS** the US military used approximately 300 metric tons of DU in the 1991
7 Persian Gulf War and continues to use tons of DU in the current Iraq war;

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9 **WHEREAS** the impact of a DU munition on a target creates aerosol particles, which can
10 be inhaled;

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12 **WHEREAS** Iraqi researchers are reporting high rates of cancers and congenital
13 malformations linked to DU exposure (Doctors Alim Yacoup, Imad Al-Sa'doun, and
14 Janan Hassan, College of Medicine, Basra University);

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16 **WHEREAS** the methodology and screening programs of the US Department of Defense
17 and its contractors have been called into question (T. Weyman: "12 Years too Late?,"
18 Uranium Medical Research Centre, March 2003), and the Government Accounting
19 Office's own report suggested the need for further research (GAO: "Depleted Uranium
20 Health Effects," 2000);

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22 **WHEREAS** the potential health hazards of internal DU contamination warrant
23 sustained interdisciplinary study (A. Durakovic: "The Quantitative Analysis of
24 Depleted Uranium Isotopes in British, Canadian, and US Gulf War Veterans," Military
25 Medicine, 2002);

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27 **WHEREAS** the 1977 Protocol to the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits employment
28 of "weapons, projectiles and material and methods of warfare of a nature to cause
29 superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering";

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31 **WHEREAS** Representative Jim McDermott (WA) introduced the "Depleted Uranium
32 Munitions Study Act of 2003" and reintroduced the bill for the current Congress; and
33 Representative Jose Serrano (NY) introduced the "Depleted Uranium Screening and
34 Testing Act of 2005";

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36 **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** the Washington State Democratic Central
37 Committee exhort Senators Murray and Cantwell to sponsor or cosponsor Senate bills
38 comparable to the "Depleted Uranium Study Act" and the "Depleted Uranium
39 Screening and Testing Act."
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42 Submitted to the WSDCC for consideration at its September 17, 2005 meeting in Everett
43 by the 36th District Democrats (6/7/2005)

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

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