

Resolution to Oppose Initiative 933

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3 **WHEREAS**, the Washington State Farm Bureau filed Initiative 933 (I-933), a measure
4 that would create loopholes leading to more irresponsible development and allow
5 special interests to get around land use laws that protect our communities;
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7 **WHEREAS**, I-933 would force local governments and state agencies to either not
8 enforce certain land use laws and other provisions to protect the community or pay
9 landowners for claims of diminished property value or use due to those laws;
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11 **WHEREAS**, I-933 applies retroactively to many land use laws and regulations that
12 protect drinking water, water quality, and our communities;
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14 **WHEREAS**, I-933 would have serious impacts on a neighbor's ability to protect their
15 home and property from irresponsible development and give communities little or no
16 control over what is built next door or up the street;
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18 **WHEREAS**, irresponsible developers and businesses stand to benefit from exemptions
19 from land use regulations, allowing development to occur that would displace local
20 businesses and undermine good paying union jobs;
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22 **WHEREAS**, I-933 would prohibit governments from charging a reasonable fee to
23 process claims, thereby consuming millions of taxpayer dollars that could be used for
24 public services like schools, roads, or emergency services;
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26 **WHEREAS**, I-933 would require excessive government studies before any new land use
27 laws are put in place;
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29 **WHEREAS**, governments are required to pay any objecting landowner's attorneys' fees
30 on contested claims, regardless of if the claim is found to have merit or not;
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32 **WHEREAS**, I-933 would create a loophole for irresponsible development on
33 Washington farmland and in Washington's forests;
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35 **WHEREAS**, I-933 would be a giant step backwards for efforts to reduce air and water
36 pollution, protect endangered species, and preserve Washington's open spaces;
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38 **WHEREAS**, a similar initiative passed in Oregon in 2004 (Measure 37) and has resulted
39 in thousands of claims statewide;
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41 **WHEREAS**, Oregon State has exempted landowners from laws in 90 percent of the
42 claims filed with them, rejected only 10 percent of the claims, and compensated not
43 even one landowner;
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46 **WHEREAS**, the Oregon Secretary of State projected that Measure 37 would cost Oregon
47 \$344 million dollars a year in administrative costs alone – without paying even one
48 claim;

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50 **WHEREAS**, 89 percent of the claims filed in Oregon have been on farm and forest land;

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52 **WHEREAS**, we find just compensation for landowners is already required by the U.S.
53 Constitution and this initiative goes way beyond such compensation;

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55 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Washington State Democratic Party endorses
56 the campaign to oppose I-933 in Washington because the initiative could dismantle
57 protections for our communities, farm and forest land, our local economy, and our
58 quality of life.

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61 Submitted by the delegates of the Yakima County Democratic Convention to the
62 Washington State Democratic Party for consideration at its June 3, 2006 convention in
63 Yakima, WA (Date Submitted 4/8/2006)

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65 Referred to the WSDCC with a recommendation of “Pass” by the State Party Platform
66 Committee at its June 2, 2006 meeting in Yakima.

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68 Passed by the Washington State Democratic Party at its State Convention held on June
69 3, 2006 in Yakima.