

Katrina Resolution

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3 The current crisis precipitated by hurricane Katrina has exemplified how the
4 Republican agenda has failed the people of the United States of America. It is up to
5 the Democrats to provide leadership by identifying failures and providing an
6 alternate vision of what America can be. In order to encourage this process, the
7 Washington State Democrats submit the following resolution to Washington's
8 elected Democrats in the United States Congress:
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10 **WHEREAS** the Bush administration has failed the people of the United States by
11 putting people in charge of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
12 who have no background in emergency management; and
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14 **WHEREAS** the Bush administration has failed the people of New Orleans by
15 repeatedly cutting the funding for flood control; and
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17 **WHEREAS** the Bush administration has repeatedly ignored the recommendations of
18 the Army Corp of Engineers to improve the levee systems; and
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20 **WHEREAS** the Bush administration has ignored scientific evidence and hampered
21 international efforts to address global warming; and
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23 **WHEREAS** the Bush administration's poor planning in post-war Iraq has resulted in
24 deployment of the National Guard far beyond expectation resulting in the Louisiana
25 and Georgia guard units being overseas and unavailable to provide needed support;
26 and
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28 **WHEREAS** George Bush personally demonstrated his detachment from reality and
29 his lack of concern for the legitimate needs of his constituents by remaining on
30 vacation for several days after Katrina made landfall even though the extent of the
31 disaster was predicted several days before; and
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33 **WHEREAS** George Bush demonstrated again his inability to be truthful with the
34 people of the United States by stating that "I don't think anyone anticipated breach
35 of the levees" when in fact that very possibility had been mentioned in a report
36 prepared by Louisiana State University for Bush's first term FEMA director Joe
37 Allbaugh; and
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39 **WHEREAS** the Bush administration's response to the emergency was completely
40 inadequate in that they waited days before sending in needed supplies and
41 personnel and repeatedly demonstrated complete lack of knowledge about the
42 situation on the ground; and

43 **WHEREAS** the above failures have resulted in the deaths of United States citizens
44 who might have been saved;

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46 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats do
47 respectfully request that the Democratic Senators and Representatives from
48 Washington State take a lead role in holding Bush's administration officials to
49 account. Specifically we request that they:

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51 1) Demand accountability from the administration officials responsible for
52 emergency management
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54 2) Hold responsible Republican lawmakers that cut funding for flood control
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56 3) Highly recommend the initiation of termination proceedings for the Head
57 of the Department of Homeland Security
- 58
59 4) Call for a special prosecutor to investigate whether the dereliction of duty
60 evident in the Federal response to this disaster rose to the level of criminal
61 misconduct

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63 We further request the Democratic Senators and Representatives from
64 Washington State to take a lead role in presenting to the people of the United
65 States an alternate vision for how the country should be run. Specifically, we
66 request that they:

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68 1) Present an alternative model for emergency management stressing
69 competent management and effective planning
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71 2) Present an effective plan for flood management based on
72 recommendations ignored by the Bush administration
- 73
74 3) Recognize that poverty has been a contributing factor to this disaster and
75 fund rebuilding efforts by rescinding Republican tax cuts aimed at the
76 wealthiest 1%
- 77
78 4) Acknowledge that global warming will result in storms of increasing
79 severity and present a plan for addressing global warming.

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81 We take these actions remembering the suffering of the storm victims and in the
82 solemn hope that the severity of suffering can be averted in the future.

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85 Submitted to the WSDCC for consideration at its September 17, 2005 meeting in
86 Everett by the 47th District Democrats (9/12/2005)

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

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