

In Support of Passenger Rail Service in Eastern Washington State

WHEREAS western Washington has frequent and successful Amtrak passenger rail service along the Cascade Corridor (primarily between Seattle and Portland, but also along the entire route from Vancouver, British Columbia to Eugene, Oregon);

WHEREAS eastern Washington has only a single train per day (actually mostly at night) between Spokane and Seattle via Ephrata and Wenatchee and between Spokane and Portland via Pasco;

WHEREAS even alternate regional bus and air service in eastern Washington is increasing difficult to find (Walla Walla, for example, is no longer connected to the Greyhound national network and most Horizon Air flights only go to Seattle);

WHEREAS passenger rail is the most fuel efficient form of transportation;

WHEREAS increased intra-state rail service will provide a convenient alternate for reducing automobile usage, the least energy efficient method of transportation;

WHEREAS additional rail service will increase tourism within eastern Washington by providing additional transportation options in an era of steadily increasing fuel costs; and

WHEREAS Amtrak service in the Cascade Corridor, is primarily supported by state funding;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Democrats support reinstating passenger rail service between Spokane and Seattle via Pasco, Yakima, Ellensburg, Wenatchee and other South Central and North Central communities;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington State Democrats forward this resolution to the President, the Washington State Delegation to the US Congress, the Washington State Legislature and Governor, and those municipalities through which the rail service passes; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that all of the above promote funding and legislation to enable to passenger rail service to begin within ten years.

Submitted by the Franklin County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 5/6/2008)

44 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED
45 A PASS" at its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.
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47 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,
48 2008 meeting in Spokane.