

Resolution on Port Trucking Standards

1
2
3 **WHEREAS** the *New York Times* recently reported on the national air pollution crisis
4 facing our nation's ports, caused in part by the underground economy of port trucking;

5
6 **WHEREAS** port trucking operations are cogs in our local economy, moving millions of
7 cargo containers each year;

8
9 **WHEREAS** many of the men and women driving trucks at our ports, including the Port
10 of Seattle, are exploited immigrants who drive polluting, poorly maintained diesel
11 trucks in unsafe conditions and have no collective bargaining power;

12
13 **WHEREAS** dangerous diesel pollution emitted by old port trucks directly impacts the
14 health and safety of port neighborhoods;

15
16 **WHEREAS** legal challenges by the American Trucking Association prevent local ports,
17 such as the Port of Seattle, from setting environmental, safety, and labor standards for
18 their own port trucking operations, like those adopted by the Port of Los Angeles;

19
20 **WHEREAS** Congress is currently considering introducing legislation to address these
21 lawsuits and empower ports to set environmental, safety and labor standards for port
22 trucking operations; and

23
24 **WHEREAS** empowering ports to set environmental, safety and labor standards is
25 supported by a wide range of organizations and leaders including: Natural Resources
26 Defense Council, Sierra Club, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Steelworkers of
27 America, Mayor of Seattle Mike McGinn and members of the Seattle City Council;

28
29 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we support empowering ports to set their own
30 environmental, safety and labor standards for port trucking operations that are at least
31 as stringent as those of the Port of Los Angeles;

32
33 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we urge our elected Representatives
34 and Senators to pass legislation to accomplish this goal;

35
36 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that an electronic copy of this resolution be
37 sent to the Washington State Congressional Delegation, the Mayor of Seattle, members
38 of the Seattle City Council, and to the Port of Seattle Commission along with a request
39 for response within thirty days, listing the actions they are willing to take to support
40 this resolution, or a list of the reasons explaining why it cannot be supported.

41

42

43 Submitted by the King County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
44 consideration at its June 26 convention in Vancouver. (Date Submitted 4/21/2010)
45
46 Recommended Pass with amendments by the Subcommittee on Education, Health Care,
47 and Transportation. (Date Considered 5/2/2010)
48
49 Recommended Pass with amendments by the State Convention Platform Committee.
50 (Date Considered 6/5/2010)
51
52 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 26,
53 2010 meeting in Vancouver.