

1 **Resolution for Replacement of the Existing**
2 **Interstate 5 Bridges Between Portland, Oregon**
3 **and Southwest Washington**
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5 **WHEREAS** the Interstate 5 Highway is critical to the economy and security of the west
6 coast of the United States and for the Nation;
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8 **WHEREAS** the Interstate 5 Highway supports transportation and commerce over its
9 2,223 mile length from Mexico to Canada, including Fort Lewis, McCord Air Force Base,
10 Bremerton Naval Shipyards, the Ports of Washington, Oregon, California and the
11 shipyards thereof, Boeing in Seattle and in Gresham, and civilian commerce including
12 trucking and freight, among other uses. Thus the Interstate 5 Highway is a critical asset
13 for our domestic economic security and national security;
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15 **WHEREAS** the Interstate 5 Bridges are very old and are supported on pilings that do
16 not reach down to bedrock. The Interstate 5 Bridges are the most vulnerable part of the
17 Interstate 5 Highway system. Damage or loss of use of the bridges due to earthquake,
18 or other natural disaster, or human caused disruption will have severe negative
19 consequences for the region and for the nation;
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21 **WHEREAS** there have been numerous studies since 1995 concerning the need for and
22 feasibility of replacing the current Interstate 5 Bridges;
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24 **WHEREAS** more than \$87 Million has been spent studying the project thus far;
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26 **WHEREAS** agencies participating include, City of Vancouver, City of Portland, the Port
27 of Portland, the Port of Vancouver, ODOT, WADOT, C-TRAN, TriMet, Southwest
28 Washington Regional Transportation Council, Oregon Metro Regional Government,
29 Transportation Commissions of Oregon and Washington, the Washington Regional
30 Transportation Council and all county governments in the five-county area;
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32 **WHEREAS** the project has been endorsed by the Federal Highway Administration, the
33 congressional delegations in both Oregon and Washington, city, county and port
34 commissioners, local business associations, chambers of commerce, labor unions,
35 regional transportation councils, the Portland Business Alliance, Identity Clark County,
36 the Columbian, the Oregonian, Willamette Week, the Reflector, Northwest Labor Press,
37 Portland Business Journal, and Vancouver Business Journal; and
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39 **WHEREAS** the application for federal funding must be completed in 2010, else the
40 opportunity will be lost for at least eight to twelve years according to advice from US
41 Senators Murray and Cantwell;

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43 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Washington State Democrats call upon all
44 agencies and elected officials to unite behind the project, and be united in recognition of
45 the urgency that the project must go forward in this transportation funding cycle;

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47 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** no more studies are needed and all
48 responsible elected officials should move rapidly to complete and submit the
49 applications for funding to the governors of Oregon and Washington, to the legislatures
50 of Oregon and Washington, and to the federal government; and

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52 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be
53 transmitted to relevant officials along with a request for response within thirty days,
54 listing the actions they are willing to take to support this resolution, or a list of the
55 reasons explaining why it cannot be supported.

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58 Submitted by the 18th LD Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
59 consideration at its June 26 convention in Vancouver. (Date Submitted 5/1/2010)

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61 Recommended Pass by the Subcommittee on Education, Health Care, and
62 Transportation. (Date Considered 5/2/2010)

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64 Recommended Pass by the State Convention Platform Committee. (Date Considered
65 6/5/2010)

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67 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 26,
68 2010 meeting in Vancouver.