

Resolution of Support for Restoration of Chinook Nation to Federal Tribal Status

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4 **WHEREAS** leaders of the Washington State Democrats are familiar with the activities
5 of the Chinook Nation and aware of their continuous presence along the Lower
6 Columbia River and around Willapa Bay since and long prior to the founding of the
7 United States of America and Washington statehood;

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9 **WHEREAS** the Chinook Tribe was federally recognized by the United States through
10 negotiation of the 1851 Treaty of Tansy Point, and by the United States taking
11 allotments in trust for many members of the Tribe, and by a pattern of government-to-
12 government dealing lasting into the 1960s;

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14 **WHEREAS** the Tribe was found by the Department of the Interior under Secretary
15 Bruce Babbitt to satisfy the requirements for federal recognition in the year 2000, only to
16 have the Department under Secretary Gale Norton take away federal tribal status;

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18 **WHEREAS** the failed federal tribal termination experiment was not extended to the
19 State of Washington but jumped the Columbia River when the Congress passed the
20 Western Oregon Termination Act of 1954, including most of the tribes in the Chinook
21 Nation;

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23 **WHEREAS** Congressman Brian Baird has been laboring for restoration of the Chinook
24 Nation, first via H.R. 6689 in 2008, and now via H.R. 3084, the Chinook Tribe
25 Restoration Act, to provide basic justice for the Chinook Nation;

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27 **WHEREAS** the Democratic state legislators representing Pacific and Wahkiakum
28 Counties and many other community leaders support H.R. 3084; and

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30 **WHEREAS** the Chinook Tribal Council has requested the support of the Washington
31 State Democrats for H.R. 3084 and the restoration of their federal status by the Congress
32 of the United States;

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34 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats hereby
35 expresses its support for H.R. 3084 and the Restoration of the Chinook Nation to federal
36 tribal status;

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38 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats urge
39 the Washington State Congressional delegation to make every effort to secure passage
40 of H.R. 3084, the Chinook Tribe Restoration Act in the 111th Congress; and
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42 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be
43 transmitted to relevant officials along with a request for response within thirty days,
44 listing the actions they are willing to take to support this resolution or a list of the
45 reasons explaining why it cannot be supported.

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48 Submitted by the Pacific County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
49 consideration at its June 26 convention in Vancouver. (Date Submitted 4/25/2010)

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51 Recommended Pass with amendments by the Subcommittee on Human Rights, Civil
52 Rights and Human Services, Immigration, Indian Tribes and Sovereignty, and Law and
53 Justice. (Date Considered 5/2/2010)

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55 Recommended Pass with amendments by the State Convention Platform Committee.
56 (Date Considered 6/5/2010)

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58 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 26,
59 2010 meeting in Vancouver.