

1 **A Resolution Concerning Initiative Measure No. 1401**
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3 **WHEREAS** the ballot title for Initiative 1401 reads “Initiative Measure No. 1401
4 concerns trafficking of animal species threatened with extinction... This measure would
5 make selling, purchasing, trading, or distributing certain animal species threatened
6 with extinction, and products containing such species, a gross misdemeanor or class-C
7 felony, with exemptions for certain types of transfers”;

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9 **WHEREAS**, in the words of Guy Palmer, Professor of Life Sciences at the Nelson
10 Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology in Arusha, Tanzania, “Poaching
11 and illegal trafficking robs local communities of a valuable resource for sustainable
12 tourism and brings violence into their midst... Closing the markets for this illegal trade
13 is essential... precisely the purpose of this initiative”;

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15 **WHEREAS** Initiative 1401 would help save many animals facing extinction, notably
16 elephants, rhinos, lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, pangolins, marine turtles, sharks,
17 and rays;

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19 **WHEREAS** the Platform of the Washington State Democrats supports “policies that
20 promote biodiversity, ecosystem and watershed protection, and restoration of wild
21 salmon and endangered species”;

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23 **WHEREAS** Initiative 1401 is supported by many friends of the Democratic Party,
24 including Washington Conservation Voters, The Sierra Club, and the National
25 Resources Defense Council;

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27 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats take a position
28 supporting a Yes vote on Initiative 1401 on the November 2015 general election ballot.
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31 Submitted by the 45th LD Democrats to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted 9/3/2015)

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33 The Resolutions Committee amended this resolution and recommended that it be
34 “PASSED” at its September 19, 2015 meeting in Wenatchee.

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36 The WSDCC “PASSED” this resolution at its September 19, 2015 meeting in Wenatchee.