

1 **Resolution to Create an Environment and Climate Caucus of the**
2 **Washington State Democratic Party**

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4 **WHEREAS** the Democratic Party National Platform states “climate change is an urgent
5 threat and a defining challenge of our time”;

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7 **WHEREAS** the Washington State Democratic Party Platform calls for “immediate
8 aggressive action to minimize climate change, as global climate change is the foremost
9 threat to survival of Earth as we know it”;

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11 **WHEREAS** the environment is under renewed threat as a result of recent actions by the
12 current administration;

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14 **WHEREAS** existing strategies to combat climate change have to date been insufficient
15 to meet the goals set forth in the Paris Agreement;

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17 **WHEREAS** according to the Washington State Department of Ecology, Agriculture is
18 the key economic driver and employer in most regions of Washington State, and
19 warmer temperatures, higher carbon dioxide levels, and more frequent and severe
20 floods and droughts could significantly impact crop yields for Washington State
21 farmers;

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23 **WHEREAS** climate disruption increases the likelihood of forest fires, drought and
24 insect vectors spreading disease to our forests and potentially to humans;

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26 **WHEREAS** transitioning to an economy based on sustainable renewable energy and
27 energy efficiency will bring new jobs in the transportation, building, and energy sectors;

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29 **WHEREAS** important climate- and environment-related bills are currently before the
30 Washington State Legislature, including two separate carbon tax proposals, a solar
31 extension tax credit bill, bills to preserve farmland, and a bill to better protect our
32 waters from fossil fuel transportation; and

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34 **WHEREAS** respondents to a survey about the environment at the state party meeting
35 on January 28th 2017 indicated interest in the formation of an Environment and Climate
36 Caucus;

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38 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Central
39 Committee (WSDCC), do hereby recognize the Environment and Climate Caucus as a
40 full and functioning caucus.

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43 Submitted by the 16th LD Democrats on 4/7/2017.

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45 The Resolutions Committee reviewed and amended this resolution and recommended
46 that it be passed.

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48 The Washington State Democratic Central Committee approved this resolution on
49 4/22/2017.