

1 **Oppose the Exemption of Crop Waste, Animal Waste, and**
2 **Fertilizer from the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act**

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4 **WHEREAS** Congressman Dan Newhouse (R-WA 04) has proposed a House Resolution
5 that would exempt animal and crop waste from the Resource Conservation and
6 Recovery Act (RCRA), which currently classifies these waste products as “solid waste”;

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8 **WHEREAS** land application of livestock manure can provide a cost-effective means to
9 fertilize crops but research confirms that manure applications in excess of crop nutrient
10 uptake, or when crops are not actively growing, or when followed by excessive
11 irrigation or precipitation leads to leaching of nitrates into waterways and
12 groundwater;

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14 **WHEREAS** lagoons for manure storage that are not constructed to recognized
15 standards further contribute to nitrate leaching into waterways and groundwater; and

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17 **WHEREAS** in 2012 nitrate levels were found to be greater than the EPA standard of 10
18 ppm in 20% of the tested wells in the Lower Yakima Valley and the situation has not
19 improved;

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21 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central
22 Committee supports continued regulation of animal wastes under RCRA and opposes
23 changing this regulatory oversight;

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25 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the WSDCC supports programs that
26 help agriculturalists use the best available approaches to proper management of crop
27 application, reducing leaching from storage lagoons by installing synthetic liners or
28 using above-ground storage units, and to encourage or offer incentives to convert to an
29 Anaerobic Digestion System; and

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31 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution will be sent by
32 WSDCC to all Washington State Members of U.S. Congress and U.S. Senators.

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35 Submitted by the Agriculture/Rural Caucus on 4/22/2017.

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37 The Resolutions Committee reviewed this resolution and recommended that it be
38 passed.

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40 The Washington State Democratic Central Committee approved this resolution on
41 4/22/2017.