

1 **Resolution in Support of Bears Ear Monument and the**
2 **Antiquities Act**

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4 **WHEREAS** the United States has obligated itself through the Constitution of the United
5 States as stated in Article VI “This Constitution and the Laws of the United States which
6 shall be made in Pursuance thereof; and all Treaties made, or which shall be made,
7 under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land;”
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9 **WHEREAS** the Native American Caucus of the Washington State Democratic Party
10 supports the proclamation establishing the Bears Ears National Monument of 1.35
11 million acres of public lands surrounding San Juan County's Cedar Mesa known as
12 Bears Ears National Monument, located in the state of Utah and southwest region, and
13 named after the pair of buttes protruding from a ridge joining the mesa and the Abajo
14 Mountains to the north in 2016;
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16 **WHEREAS** the Bears Ears National Monument is considered a sacred site to Native
17 American Tribes with its ancient cliff dwellings, abundant rock art, ceremonial sites and
18 countless artifacts which provide an extraordinary archaeological and cultural record of
19 our Native life, our culture, our history, and the protection sacred lands and the natural
20 resources of the Ute Mountain Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah
21 Ouray, Hopi Nation, and the Zuni Tribe;
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23 **WHEREAS** these tribal members are the survivors of the land that was once covered by
24 water where coral reefs grew, and where paleontological resources in the Bear Ears area
25 are among the richest and most significant in the United States. From earth to sky, the
26 region is unsurpassed in wonders with the verbal history of Natives creation stories and
27 scientific documentation of artistry and architecture has withstood thousands of
28 seasons in harsh climates and where today Natives still hunt and forage for food and
29 medicine throughout the Bears Ears region; and
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31 **WHEREAS** the United States Antiquities Act authorizes the President of the United
32 States to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric
33 structures, and other landmarks, objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated
34 upon lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government to be a national
35 monument;
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37 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats stand with the
38 five tribes of the Utah area as they fight to protect the Bear Ears Monument to preserve
39 this prehistoric site, this sacred land, this ceremony site, this cultural legacy, and
40 maintain its diverse array of natural and scientific resources for the tribes and all future
41 generations; and
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43 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Washington State Democratic Party
44 supports the proclamation establishing the Bears Ears National Monument and
45 supported by the five tribes and oppose any further congressional action to reverse the
46 presidential proclamation by the Republicans; and

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48 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that this resolution be transmitted to the
49 members of the Washington State Congressional delegation and to President Trump.

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

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54 The Resolutions Committee reviewed and amended this resolution and recommended
55 that it be passed.

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57 The Washington State Democratic Central Committee approved this resolution on
58 4/22/2017.