

Resolution in Opposition of Senate Bill 1195

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3 **WHEREAS**, Washington State Democrats support the environmental protection of
4 resources within state and federal waters to ensure that, wherever possible,
5 sustainable use preserve these resources for future generations; and
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7 **WHEREAS**, the various States exercise control to 3 miles offshore, beyond which the
8 United States Government prevails out to 200 nautical miles from shore; and
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10 **WHEREAS**, the waters off Washington State are part of a larger ocean ecosystem,
11 and actions taken beyond three miles have consequences for the state's resources,
12 fisheries, economy, and quality of life; and
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14 **WHEREAS**, there are numerous concerns regarding the economic, social, health and
15 environmental consequences of marine fish farming, both in Federal and State
16 waters, including but not limited to: the spread of disease and parasites;
17 contamination of and competition with wild fish stocks; degradation of water
18 quality; contamination from fish wastes, dead fish, uneaten food and antibiotics;
19 harmful interactions with birds, marine mammals and wildlife; conflicts with
20 commercial and recreational activities; introduction of non-native species; and
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22 **WHEREAS**, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission passed a regulation in
23 2002 banning production of genetically engineered fish in Washington waters; and
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25 **WHEREAS**, federal legislation, Senate Bill 1195, has been introduced that allows US
26 and foreign entities to lease and develop fish farms within the US Exclusive
27 Economic Zone, three to 200 miles offshore; and
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29 **WHEREAS**, the placement of aquaculture operations in federally managed waters
30 allows state laws and regulations to be circumvented; and
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32 **WHEREAS**, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has been
33 unwilling to submit a legislative environmental impact statement to Congress on
34 Senate Bill 1195, as required under the National Environmental Protection Act;
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36 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party
37 strongly urges our elected officials to respectfully request that the National Oceanic
38 and Atmospheric Administration prepare a legislative environmental impact
39 statement, prior to any Congressional action; and
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41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable
42 Patty Murray, the Honorable Maria Cantwell and Washington's Congressional and
43 State Legislative Delegation.

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46 Submitted to the WSDCC for consideration at its September 17, 2005 meeting in
47 Everett by the Washington State Progressive Caucus of the Democratic Central
48 Committee (9/16/2005)

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50 Referred to the WSDCC with a recommendation of "Pass" by the Resolutions
51 Committee at its September 17, 2005 meeting in Everett.

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53 Passed by the WSDCC at its September 17, 2005 meeting in Everett.