

Resolution Supporting the Columbia Basin Water Initiative

WHEREAS, the Columbia Basin Development League has established the water initiative to address the issue of the water level of the Odessa Sub-Area, which is in jeopardy;

WHEREAS, to supply long term support to assure more surface water will become available to the Columbia Basin Project by using surface water from the Columbia River to help replenish the water of the aquifers by replacing well water with surface water;

WHEREAS, the Columbia Basin Project originally authorized 1,095,000 acres using less than 6 % of water from the Columbia River, currently 650,000 acres are irrigated by the project;

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 acres are irrigated from the Odessa Sub-Area ground water by the use of ground water from deep wells pumping water from the aquifers, causing drastically lowered water table;

WHEREAS, it would be an economic disaster for both the Columbia Basin and the State of Washington if the wells would have to be shut down and no replacement was devised;

WHEREAS, this would improve the environmental issues concerning the aquifers and enhance recreation and wildlife in the area;

WHEREAS, Governor Christine Gregoire has allocated \$600,000 to continue the study of the project as matching funds from the Federal Government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the only way to address the decline of the Odessa Sub-Area is to make more surface water available through the Columbia Basin Project to replenish this water. A large proportion of the project has already been studied and engineered from the planning of the original Columbia Basin Project.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee support this important issue and request further support of the Legislative (both State and Federal) action to secure appropriate funding for the expansion of the Columbia Basin Project.

Submitted to the WSDCC for consideration at its January 28, 2006 meeting in South Seattle - Kent by 9th Legislative District and the Adams County Democrats (Date Submitted 1/23/2006)

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45 Adopted by the Agricultural and Rural Caucus at its January 27, 2006 meeting in South
46 Seattle – Kent

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48 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee amended this resolution and recommended a
49 “Pass” at its January 28, 2006 meeting in South Seattle - Kent.

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51 Passed by the WSDCC at its January 28, 2006 meeting in South Seattle – Kent.