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WHEREAS hemp seed contains 20% highly-digestible protein. The amino acid composition of hemp seed is characterized as a "complete protein" and is closer to the complete protein found in meat, milk and eggs than all other oil seeds except quinoa and soy;

WHEREAS the oil from hemp seed dries on exposure to air without the use of toxic synthetic chemical solvents and drying agents, a rare and useful characteristic that hemp seed oil shares with linseed oil, making it an excellent base for low toxicity paints, wood finishes and concrete sealer;

WHEREAS the hemp plant is currently harvested for commercial purposes in over 30 nations, including Canada, China, Russia, Hungary, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Spain, England, Poland and many other Eastern European and Asian countries;

WHEREAS while all Cannabis plant varieties contain delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) which is the psychoactive ingredient found in hashish and marijuana, industrial hemp does not contain an amount capable of producing any intoxicating effect, even if significant quantities are administered. EU and Canadian regulations limit THC content to 0.3% in industrial hemp;

WHEREAS hemp was cultivated in the US until 1937 when Congress passed the Marijuana Tax Act outlawing marijuana. Although not a bill specifically aimed at industrial hemp production, legal limitations posed by the legislation unjustly put an end to this once prominent industry;

WHEREAS hemp is legally recognized as a commercial crop by the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT);

WHEREAS between 1995 and 2002, 53 bills were introduced in state legislatures to study or regulate the cultivation of industrial hemp and 25 of those passed. Since the federal Drug Enforcement Administration still has jurisdiction over hemp cultivation and continues to prohibit it, efforts to revive the industrial hemp industry in the US are stymied; and

WHEREAS prohibition on the cultivation of industrial hemp in the United States puts the American farmer at a competitive disadvantage with respect to much of the rest of the world, impedes the development of a hemp processing industrial sector the US with its accompanying employment opportunities and tax revenue generation, and robs the US economy of developing a potential segment of the new "green industries" movement;

87 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Democratic Party of Washington State shall call
88 upon the Washington State Legislature and the Washington State Congressional
89 Delegation to support state and federal legislation aimed at eliminating barriers to the
90 full legalization of domestic industrial hemp cultivation, harvest and processing -
91 specifically, the Democratic Party of Washington State calls upon the Democratic
92 members of the Washington State Congressional delegation to support H. R. 1009 "The
93 Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2007".
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96 Submitted by the Lincoln County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
97 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/29/2008)

98
99 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED
100 A PASS" at its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.

101
102 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,
103 2008 meeting in Spokane.