

Resolution to Promote 'Direct Use' of Woody Biomass as a Renewable Energy Resource

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4 **WHEREAS** the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in one of the largest peer-
5 reviewed scientific collaborations in history, has warned that the burning of fossil fuels
6 and the resultant release of carbon dioxide from such non-renewable resources into our
7 atmosphere is significantly intensifying global warming; and
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9 **WHEREAS** rapid global warming is causing devastating ecological instability via
10 positive feedback loops, including forest fires exacerbated by increased temperatures
11 releasing additional carbon dioxide, have the potential to further increase rates of global
12 climate change; and
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14 **WHEREAS** woody biomass is a renewable resource which sequesters carbon dioxide
15 during its growth phase; and
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17 **WHEREAS** our federally-managed forests are over-crowded due to the alteration of
18 natural cycles and constraints on the tools used by resource managers to advance forest
19 health objectives; and
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21 **WHEREAS** our over-dense national forests increase risk of large-scale, catastrophic,
22 habitat-destroying forest fires; and
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24 **WHEREAS** technologies exist to collect, process, and utilize the excess woody biomass
25 that has created conditions for forest disease, bug-related devastation, and catastrophic
26 forest fire; and
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28 **WHEREAS** many forest-based communities in the U.S.A. have been economically
29 injured by harvest suppression; and
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31 **WHEREAS** economies around the world could be revitalized and enhanced with high
32 quality and meaningful jobs in developing, manufacturing, installing, operating, and
33 maintaining renewable energy infrastructure and strategies involving direct use of
34 woody biomass in electrical/thermal co-generation via established boiler technology;
35 and
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37 **WHEREAS** responding to the global climate crisis would also result in achieving the
38 energy independence increasingly promoted by the Democratic Party's elected officials;
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42 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the Washington State
43 Congressional Delegation are urged to actively support and promote U.S. Senate Bill S.
44 636, which calls for amendment of the Clean Air Act both to define 'woody biomass'
45 and to allow removal of this material from "National Forest System land and public
46 lands"; and

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48 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the members of the Washington State
49 Congressional Delegation are urged to actively support and promote the immediate
50 addition of direct use of woody biomass in boiler systems and other suitable heating
51 appliances to the federal Renewable Fuel Standard.

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54 Submitted by the Agriculture and Rural Caucus to the Washington State Democratic
55 Central Committee for consideration at its April 25, 2009 meeting in Tacoma. (Date
56 Submitted 4/14/2009)

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58 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" on this resolution at its April
59 24, 2009 meeting in Tacoma.

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61 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its April 25, 2009 meeting in Tacoma.