

Resolution on Family Farm Regulation

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3 **WHEREAS** with rising transportation costs, it is important in terms of both local
4 economic and local food security that local farms and ranches be able to sell their
5 products locally;

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7 **WHEREAS** current food processing regulations for slaughter houses and processing
8 facilities including cold storage, etc for production of retail meats are designed for large
9 corporate processing plants (4 corporations control processing of 80% of US meat) and
10 contain requirements making it difficult financially for small local or on-farm
11 processing facilities; and

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13 **WHEREAS** at present local ranchers must take livestock over 100 miles to a USDA
14 approved sale yard or packing plant which is not economically feasible for small
15 numbers of livestock;

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17 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats urge the
18 Washington State Legislature and the Washington State Department of Agriculture to
19 develop new or revise existing regulations making it possible for the processing and
20 production of meat products in smaller, local facilities that can be approved and
21 inspected and that can sell officially inspected meat products approved for the sale at
22 local retail businesses including restaurants – regulations that promote economic
23 viability, retain working landscapes, as well as maintain food safety; and

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25 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be
26 transmitted to relevant officials along with a request for response within thirty days,
27 listing the actions they are willing to take to support this resolution or a list of the
28 reasons explaining why it cannot be supported.

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31 Submitted by the Okanogan County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee
32 for consideration at its June 26 convention in Vancouver. (Date Submitted 4/21/2010)

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34 Recommended Pass with amendments by the Subcommittee on the Preamble,
35 Agriculture, and Energy and the Environment. (Date Considered 5/16/2010)

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37 Recommended Pass with amendments by the State Convention Platform Committee.
38 (Date Considered 6/5/2010)

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40 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 26,
41 2010 meeting in Vancouver.