

Resolution on Mine Safety Regulations

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3 **WHEREAS** Massey Energy of West Virginia, a powerful representative of the American
4 coal mining industry, has developed a pattern of willful disregard for the lives, welfare
5 and safety of those employed in their mines and their families, causing high injury rates
6 and, recently, a catastrophic disaster;

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8 **WHEREAS** the industry chooses to pay negligible fines for repeated egregious safety
9 violations rather than make the necessary changes and updates regarding their
10 ventilation and other problems;

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12 **WHEREAS** the industry uses the court system to delay and avoid full payment of their
13 mining safety violation fines, thereby creating a backlog of unpaid penalties; and

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15 **WHEREAS** the lives and welfare of miners and their families are of primary importance
16 in comparison to the cost of maintaining mine safety;

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18 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that WA State Democrats call on MSHA to be
19 immediately reinstated and rigorously enforced; and, that any new regulations
20 necessary to guarantee mine safety will be passed by Congress adequately funded and
21 similarly enforced; and

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

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29 Submitted by the 18th LD Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
30 consideration at its June 26 convention in Vancouver. (Date Submitted 5/1/2010)

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32 Recommended Pass with amendments by the Subcommittee on the Corporate Power
33 and Media Reform, Economic Justice and Development, and Labor. (Date Considered
34 5/2/2010)

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

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