

Resolution Calling on Congress to Adopt New Priorities

WHEREAS the current economic crisis is the worst in 80 years and has had a disproportionate impact on working and poor people;

WHEREAS the U.S. economic crisis can be traced to 1) \$3.8 trillion in Bush-era tax cuts extending over 10 years, to investors, large corporations and the wealthiest households, with loopholes that allow many to avoid paying taxes; 2) reckless deregulation of the financial system that enabled irresponsible risks and produced economic catastrophe; 3) unchallenged military procurement spending; and 4) the estimated \$3 to \$5 trillion cost of ongoing unbudgeted wars (including costs of replacing equipment, interest, medical care for returning veterans and other residual costs);

WHEREAS the U.S. economy has become increasingly polarized and unjust, with 1) top executives earning as much in a day as minimum wage earners can take home in two years, 2) the fruits of increased productivity not shared with workers who bear the burden of increased work, 3) real unemployment exceeding 15% and, in many communities of color, more than 50%, 4) social supports such as education, libraries, parks, and public safety increasingly underfunded, and 5) a crumbling public infrastructure that goes unrepaired;

WHEREAS, under President Obama's leadership, Osama bin Laden has been executed and our troops are being withdrawn from Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS the severity of the economic crisis has created, at all levels of government, budget shortfalls that call for a re-examination of the allocation of resources and national spending priorities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we support continuing and expediting the withdrawal of U.S. military and private security personnel from Iraq by year's end, as called for in the Status of Forces Agreement with the Iraqi government, and the simultaneous significant drawdown of military personnel from Afghanistan, with a firm date for total withdrawal as soon as that can be accomplished, but in no event later than the 2014 timeline previously announced by President Obama;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on the U.S. Congress to:

- a. Bring our war dollars home by making a substantial reduction in overall military spending and using those resources to meet vital human needs, promote job creation, rebuild our infrastructure, aid municipal and state governments, and develop a new economy based on renewable, sustainable energy and technologies; and

43 b. Reform the tax code so that the burden of taxation is fully progressive,
44 removing loopholes and preventing methods by which wealthy
45 individuals and multinational corporations avoid and evade taxes, so that
46 1) the effective top tax rate becomes an actual 35%, and 2) corporations
47 can no longer avoid U.S. taxes by shifting revenues to foreign subsidiaries
48 or tax havens; and

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50 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we urge the Washington State
51 Democratic Congressional delegation, and our own members to endorse and actively
52 support and pass legislation designed to create a more just, equitable and sustainable
53 economy and a world in which moral leadership is more important than military might
54 and our security is determined by the welfare of our people rather than the size of our
55 military budget.

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58 Submitted by the King County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central
59 Committee for consideration at its September 17, 2011 meeting in Bellingham. (Date
60 Submitted 9/6/2011)

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62 The Resolutions Committee recommended that this resolution be “PASSED WITH
63 AMENDMENTS” at its September 17, 2011 Meeting in Bellingham.

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65 The WSDCC “PASSED” this resolution at its September 17, 2011 Meeting in Bellingham.