

1 **Resolution to Protect the United States Postal Service**

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3 **WHEREAS** Article 1 Section 8 Clause 7 of the United States Constitution empowers
4 Congress to establish post offices and post roads;

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6 **WHEREAS** the United States Postal Service is a vital component of this country's
7 economic and communications infrastructure, handling and delivering 160 billion
8 pieces of mail and generating more than \$65 billion in revenues annually, while
9 receiving no taxpayer funding;

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11 **WHEREAS** the mailing industry, which employs 8 million Americans, generates over
12 \$1 trillion in annual revenues and represents approximately 7% of our Gross Domestic
13 Product (GDP), depends on the U.S. Postal Service's invaluable mail processing, retail
14 service and delivery networks six days a week;

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16 **WHEREAS** the U.S. Postal Service is the only private company or federal agency
17 required by Congress to pre-fund future-retiree health premiums for 75 years into the
18 future per the Postal Accountability Act, and to do so within a 10-year period, thus
19 entailing a crippling \$5.5 billion annual payment which has led to service cuts;

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21 **WHEREAS** states that vote almost entirely by mail, such as Washington, are especially
22 dependent on full and reliable mail service for timely exercise of their voting franchise;

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24 **WHEREAS** the Postal Service is the second largest employer of U.S. Veterans, who
25 comprise over 22% of its present workforce;

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27 **WHEREAS** rural communities, many of which do not have access to the Internet,
28 remain dependent on the Postal Service for vital communications and for the shipment
29 and receipt of goods; and

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31 **WHEREAS** many Americans, particularly senior citizens, depend on the Postal Service
32 for receipt of their prescription drugs;

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34 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats urge and expect
35 the Washington State delegation to Congress to support postal-reform legislation to
36 stabilize Postal Service finances by reforming or eliminating the unique requirement of
37 pre-funding future retiree health benefits, and thereby (1) secure the continuation of six-
38 day mail delivery, (2) strengthen and protect the Postal Service's invaluable mail
39 processing, retail service and delivery networks that together comprise a vital part of
40 our nation's infrastructure, (3) retain door-to-door service for over 30 million
41 households and businesses, and (4) preserve the United State Postal Service into the
42 foreseeable future; and

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44 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this resolution be sent to the
45 President and Vice President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the U.S.
46 Senate, the Washington State Delegation to Congress, the Postmaster General, the Post
47 Office Unions.

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50 Submitted by the Benton County Democrats, the Kittitas County Democrats, the Pierce
51 County Democrats, and the Skagit County Democrats to the 2014 Washington State
52 Democratic Convention. (Date Submitted 4/12/2014)

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54 The Subcommittee on Government and Political Reform amended this resolution at
55 their May 18th meeting.

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57 The Subcommittee on Government and Political Reform recommended that this
58 resolution be passed as amended at their May 18th meeting.

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60 The Platform Committee affirmed the recommendation of the Subcommittee on
61 Government and Political Reform at their May 31st meeting.

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63 The 2014 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 21,
64 2014.