

1 **A Resolution in Favor of Basic Banking Services Being**
2 **Provided by the United States Postal Service**

3
4 **WHEREAS** the United States Postal Service (USPS) has shown a deficit since the
5 passage of a 2006 bill that required that the USPS pre-fund its workers' pensions 75
6 years in advance - a standard not seen in any other industry;

7
8 **WHEREAS** to make up this artificial fiscal emergency within the USPS, the Postmaster
9 General, Patrick Donahoe, has proposed closing post office branches, reducing hours,
10 ending Saturday delivery, and cutting over 125,000 jobs - the sharpest drop in USPS
11 history - with nearly 100,000 more slated by 2015;

12
13 **WHEREAS** almost every developed nation in Europe and East Asia, including Israel,
14 France, Switzerland, Russia, South Korea, and South Africa, operates a postal banking
15 system, with the world's largest savings bank being Japan Post;

16
17 **WHEREAS** the United States Postal Savings System, which paid depositors 2 percent
18 annual interest, existed between 1911 and 1967;

19
20 **WHEREAS** the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation shows about 10 million
21 households are "unbanked," with no access to traditional financial services and another
22 24 million are "underbanked," meaning they have a bank account but still use
23 alternative services like check cashing stores, pawnbrokers or payday lenders. The
24 unbanked and underbanked represent over one in four households in the U.S.;

25
26 **WHEREAS**, according to the Postal Service IG report, the average household spends
27 \$2,412 a year on interest and fees for alternative financial services, which amounts to
28 one-tenth of their gross income going straight into the corporate accounts of
29 unscrupulous and predatory operations; and

30
31 **WHEREAS** the semi-autonomous Postal Service Board of Governors, composed of nine
32 members appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate, currently has five
33 vacancies on the nine-member board, with President Obama not having successfully
34 placed a single appointee on it during his entire tenure in office and the four existing
35 members all being appointed by George W. Bush;

36
37 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central
38 Committee calls on President Obama to appoint five (5) qualified individuals that
39 support postal banking and other means of preserving the USPS without cutting its
40 services to fill the vacancies on the Postal Service Board of Governors and Senators
41 Murray and Cantwell to push the United States Senate to move expeditiously to
42 confirm those appointments; and

43
44 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
45 Central Committee calls on Washington State's Congressional delegation to join
46 Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren in support of the USPS providing basic, non-
47 predatory banking services to help both the unbanked and underbanked communities
48 as well as providing additional revenue to the USPS.

49

50

51 Submitted by the 30th LD Democrats to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted 5/30/2014)

52

53 Recommended Pass by the Resolutions Committee at their September 13, 2014 Meeting
54 in Ferndale.

55

56 Passed by the WSDCC at their September 13, 2014 Meeting in Ferndale.