

1                   **A Resolution in Favor of Basic Banking Services Being**  
2                   **Provided by the United States Postal Service**  
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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                   **WHEREAS** to make up this artificial fiscal emergency within the USPS, the Postmaster  
8                   General, Patrick Donahoe, has proposed closing post office branches, reducing hours,  
9                   ending Saturday delivery, and cutting over 125,000 jobs - the sharpest drop in USPS  
10                  history - with nearly 100,000 more slated by 2015;

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

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

16                  **WHEREAS** the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation shows about 10 million  
17                  households are "unbanked," with no access to traditional financial services and another  
18                  24 million are "underbanked," meaning they have a bank account but still use  
19                  alternative services like check cashing stores, pawnbrokers or payday lenders. The  
20                  unbanked and underbanked represent over one in four households in the U.S.;

21                  **WHEREAS**, according to the Postal Service IG report, the average household spends  
22                  \$2,412 a year on interest and fees for alternative financial services, which amounts to  
23                  one-tenth of their gross income going straight into the corporate accounts of  
24                  unscrupulous and predatory operations; and

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

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

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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.

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

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

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

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