

## Wildfires in Washington State

**WHEREAS** Washington is simultaneously enduring the hottest year on record, one of the worst droughts on record, and the worst wildfire season and the largest single wildfire in state history;

**WHEREAS** three firefighters were killed in the line of duty courageously fighting these wildfires on August 19<sup>th</sup>;

**WHEREAS** countless other Washington firefighters have fought valiantly this summer to protect Washington's communities and citizens;

**WHEREAS** when healthy, Washington's lush and plentiful forestlands naturally and efficiently sequester millions of tons of carbon every year and are resistant to catastrophic wildfires; and

**WHEREAS** the events of this summer demonstrate that climate change is already threatening Washingtonians' quality of life, the sustainability of our ecosystems, and the economic vitality of our rural communities;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats offer our condolences to the communities affected by these fires and formally thank workers fighting the wildfires in our state for their heroic efforts;

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats encourage improvement in forest management practices to minimize potential future wildfire impacts; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that Washington State Democrats renew their call for urgent action to prevent climate change and mitigate its effects.

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Submitted by the Agriculture and Rural Caucus to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted 9/19/2015)

The Resolutions Committee amended this resolution and recommended that it be "PASSED" at its September 19, 2015 meeting in Wenatchee.

The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its September 19, 2015 meeting in Wenatchee.