Remove Olympia's Fifth Avenue Dam and Free the Deschutes River

WHEREAS every year over 35,000 cubic yards of sediment fill Capitol Lake creating high water temperatures, algae blooms, and stagnant water caused by the Fifth Avenue Dam, violating the Clean Water Act, providing habitat for invasive species and harming salmon;

WHEREAS the Fifth Avenue Deschutes Dam is obsolete, serves no practical purpose as a dam, and provides a narrow inadequate transportation corridor risking pedestrians and bicyclists safety;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services, the Governor, the Washington State Department of Ecology, and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources take immediate steps to remove the dam and replace it with a bridge, consistent with the multi-modal transportation goals of the City of Olympia, that enhances pedestrian safety;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington State Democrats urge the Washington State Legislature actively promote Deschutes Dam removal, estuary restoration, and construction of a new bridge without delay.

Submitted by the Thurston County Democrats.

The Platform Committee recommended that this resolution be passed at their June 17, 2016 meeting.

The 2016 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 18, 2016.