Discontinue Operation of the Columbia Nuclear Generation Station

WHEREAS the Columbia Generating Station, located at the Hanford Nuclear Site, is the only commercially operated nuclear station in the Northwest;

WHEREAS Columbia's now obsolete design, BWR-5 with a Mark II containment structure, was initially built and licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 1983 to operate until December 2023;

WHEREAS the Columbia Generating Station produces approximately 10% of Washington State's electricity demands;

WHEREAS reactor owners, Energy Northwest, have received a 20 year extension of the operating license effective until December 2043. The Columbia Generation Station continues to operate despite its aging design and infrastructure;

WHEREAS the U.S. Geological Survey has shown that active faults of the Puget Sound Region are connected to ridges in the Mid-Columbia by faults that cross the Cascades;

WHEREAS there is no projected date for operations of a national long-term nuclear waste storage facility, the solution for spent nuclear fuel at the Columbia Generating Station remains an onsite solution, a combination of short term pool storage and dry casking; and

WHEREAS economic analysis data, conducted by energy economist Robert McCullough, states that the Columbia Generating Station plant replacement would save ratepayers \$1.7 billion over the next two decades. The operating costs of the plant exceed the market value of the power it produces;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Washington State Democrats, urge elected officials to encourage owners Energy Northwest and facility operators Bonneville Power Administration to cease operations at the Columbia Generating Station, to be replaced by green power production.

Submitted by the Klickitat County Democrats.

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

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- 42 The 2016 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 18,
- 43 2016.
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