

1 **Resolution Opposing the Kinder-Morgan**
2 **Trans-Mountain Pipeline**

3
4 **WHEREAS** the Kinder-Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline expansion would bring
5 590,000 additional barrels per day of tar sands oil from Alberta to Vancouver, BC, and
6 then transport it through the Salish Sea between Washington and British Columbia;
7

8 **WHEREAS** this shipping would result an increase in oil tankers in the area from 60
9 tankers per year to 408 tankers per year, a seven-fold increase;

10
11 **WHEREAS** such an increase unavoidably increases the likelihood of an accident that
12 could lead to an oil spill in Salish Sea waters;

13
14 **WHEREAS** the 2015 Vessel Traffic Risk Assessment determined that the Kinder
15 Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion would result in an 800% increase in the
16 risk of a 15,725 barrel or larger spill in a ten-year period in Haro Strait/ Boundary Pass;

17
18 **WHEREAS** such a spill would have an enormous impact on Washington State's
19 maritime economy which is worth \$30 billion and supports 148,000 jobs;

20
21 **WHEREAS** the relatively heavy tar sands oil to be shipped from Kinder-Morgan
22 facilities is far more difficult to clean up than the North Slope Crude spilled in the
23 Exxon Valdez accident, and the Coast Guard has specified that its technology is less
24 sophisticated for cleaning up the tar sands oil when spilled;

25
26 **WHEREAS** we have seen that even new vessels with no defects or deficiencies in their
27 equipment will still spill oil, as in the 3,700 liter spill during the maiden voyage of the
28 M/V Marathassa in Vancouver in 2015;

29
30 **WHEREAS** the value of coastal properties in Washington State's Skagit, San Juan,
31 Jefferson, Island, Whatcom and Clallam counties would be sharply adversely affected
32 by a spill of oil from shipping Kinder-Morgan tar sands oil, causing a proportionate
33 reduction in tax revenue from these properties;

34
35 **WHEREAS** numerous First Nations and Native American Tribes have, since time
36 immemorial, relied on the marine resources that would be harmed not only by a spill
37 but also by the increase in vessel traffic noise and pollution, and such Nations and
38 Tribes have a right to have these resources protected;

39
40 **WHEREAS** 59 British Columbia Tribes and First Nations along with 22 local
41 governments have voiced their opposition to the Kinder-Morgan project; and
42

43 **WHEREAS** the quality of life and the natural beauty and surroundings of the Puget
44 Sound and Salish Sea areas is highly valued by the citizens, is part of what drives
45 Washington State tourism that generates more than \$1.8 billion in local and state tax
46 revenues annually, and is something public officials and citizens alike proclaim makes
47 the area a special place;

48
49 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central
50 Committee (WSDCC) opposes the Kinder-Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline Project; and

51
52 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the WSDCC shall issue letters to
53 Governor Jay Inslee and the Washington State Congressional delegation expressing this
54 opposition and urging those officials to oppose completion of the Project and oppose
55 the oil shipments anticipated by the Project.

56
57

58 Submitted by the Agriculture/Rural Caucus on 4/22/2017.

59

60 The Resolutions Committee reviewed and amended this resolution and recommended
61 that it be passed.

62

63 The Washington State Democratic Central Committee approved this resolution on
64 4/22/2017.