A Resolution Against Proposed Drilling Off of Washington's Coast

WHEREAS Secretary of the Interior Zinke, has proposed opening Washington's offshore region to oil drilling. In a expensive program that would dismantle the legacy of environmental responsibility of closing these sensitive waters in the Pacific Region since 1984 to drilling sales;

WHEREAS the U.S. Bureau of Oceans and Energy Management is holding a hearing on the decision on February 5, 2018, without opportunity for oral public comment;

WHEREAS the ecosystem of the offshore environment is increasingly stressed by pollution and climatic changes, fossil fuel spills pose a particular risk due to the growing sensitivity of offshore communities;

WHEREAS Noah Oppenheim, executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, pointed out factual inaccuracies in the interior Secretary's 380-page plan, including a graph stating that there is no commercial fishing;

WHEREAS areas opened to drilling about Olympia Coast National Marine Sanctuary and thus threaten the long-term viability of the Marine Sanctuary whose resource document explicitly prohibits "exploring for, developing or producing oils;"

WHEREAS the President of the National Resources Defense Council state "Offshore drilling would yield little cost or supply benefit, and yet it would pose serious long-term danger to our beaches and marine life;"

WHEREAS these operations would create undue economic burden on the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS Washington State Tribal Nations have rights to usual and accustomed offshore fishing and have not been consulted in Nation to Nation negotiations with the Federal Government.;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee urges all elected officials of Washington State to oppose attempts by the Federal Administration to open up Washington's coastal water to Offshore Drilling.

Submitted on January 27, 2018 via 50 signatures for consideration by the Washington State Democratic Central Committee at its January 28, 2018 meeting in Bellingham.

The Resolutions Committee reviewed the resolution and recommended it be passed.

The Washington State Democratic Central Committee approved this resolution on 1/28/18.