

1 **A RESOLUTION OPPOSING INTERNATIONAL TRADE**
2 **AGREEMENTS WHICH INCLUDE INVESTOR STATE DISPUTE**
3 **SETTLEMENT PROVISIONS {ISDS}**

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5 WHEREAS the third round of renegotiation of the North American Free Trade
6 Agreement (NAFTA) has concluded, and it is still unclear whether U.S. negotiators are
7 going to demand the removal of the controversial NAFTA provision known as Investor
8 State Dispute Settlement;

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10 WHEREAS at the heart of these agreements is a process known as Investor State
11 Dispute Settlement (ISDS);

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13 WHEREAS ISDS formally prioritizes corporate rights over the rights of sovereign
14 governments to regulate for the public interest, worker safety, and protections against
15 climate change;

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17 WHEREAS using ISDS corporations only need to convince a panel of three corporate
18 lawyers that a law designed to protect public health, job safety, or the environment
19 violates their special NAFTA rights;

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21 WHEREAS those corporate-friendly tribunals have the power to levy fines in the
22 millions and billions of dollars against our governments for loss of the corporations'
23 hypothetical future profits which we, the taxpayers, will ultimately pay;

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25 WHEREAS the threat of fines levied has a chilling impact on the willingness of
26 governments to regulate for the public interest, worker safety and climate change;

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28 WHEREAS workers and communities can't sue for unfair job practices which have
29 been adversely impacted by these companies;

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31 WHEREAS ISDS makes it easier for big corporations to move jobs to locations where
32 workers are the most exploited and environmental regulations are the weakest;

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34 WHEREAS ISDS puts democratically enacted public interest laws such as fracking
35 moratoriums, laws regulating oil and gas pipelines, and 'buy local' programs in
36 jeopardy both at home and abroad; and

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38 WHEREAS ISDS will drive down labor and environmental standards at a time when we
39 need those standards to fight climate change and to encourage sustainable
40 communities;

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42 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic Central
43 Committee (WSDCC) to call upon our federal elected officials – Senator Cantwell,

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TRADE

44 Senator Murray and our Congressional Representatives – to oppose a renegotiated
45 NAFTA (or any future trade deal) if it includes ISDS provisions; and

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47 THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the WSDCC ask our Members of
48 Congress to vote to remove NAFTA 2.0 from the Fast Track Process, if the Trump
49 Administration submits an implementing bill prior to getting changes based on rules
50 that are fair and transparent, and seek to enhance prosperity, stability, freedom and the
51 quality of life.

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54 Submitted by the 23rd Legislative District Democratic Central Committee to the
55 WSDCC at its September 28, 2019 Meeting in Yakima. (Submitted on July 25, 2019.)

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57 The Resolutions Committee reviewed and amended this resolution and recommended
58 it be passed.