

## 1 **Support of Agriculture Grants For Sustainable Farms and Fields**

2 **WHEREAS** the agriculture sector represents 13% of Washington State's economy and  
3 6.8% of Washington State's greenhouse gas emissions, and

4 **WHEREAS** policies to support sustainable efficiencies can improve workers wages, the  
5 environment, and a competitive advantage in global markets, and

6 **WHEREAS** climate change is negatively affecting Washington State's agriculture  
7 businesses by compromising water resources and diminishing the availability of irrigation  
8 water, and

9 **WHEREAS** high intensity monoculture farming accelerates soil erosion and requires the  
10 intensive use of fertilizers that wash into waterways, thus resulting in increased polluted  
11 sediments and the frequency of toxic algae blooms in freshwater lakes and estuaries, and

12 **WHEREAS** soil carbon storage can be increased by cost effective modifications to  
13 agricultural practices resulting in a reduction of carbon emissions impacts in Washington  
14 State, and

15 **WHEREAS** electrical operational efficiencies can be greatly improved by modern farm  
16 equipment and technologies including solar and wind power surge storage that enables  
17 the recharging of battery powered farm equipment in off-the-grid mode, and

18 **WHEREAS** regenerative agricultural practices enhance competitive advantages for  
19 Washington State farmers by increasing biodiversity, enriching soils, improving  
20 watersheds and enhancing ecosystem services while simultaneously saving energy and  
21 storing carbon in the soil, and

22 **WHEREAS** financial assistance grants are needed to incentivize and enable farmers to  
23 implement:

24 a. Reduced use of fertilizers and pesticides

25 b. Energy and water conservation and increased use of renewable energy in farm  
26 operations

27 c. Adoption of regenerative agricultural practices such as no till, manure or biochar  
28 additions

29 d. Integration of cover crop plantings especially native plants that are naturally  
30 drought tolerant and hardy in eastern Washington agricultural and ranch  
31 environments,

32 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Washington State Democratic Party Central  
33 Committee urges the Washington State Legislature to pass a bipartisan Sustainable Farms  
34 and Fields Bill in the upcoming legislative session that will provide grants to farmers to

WSDCC--935--ENV – Support Sustainable Farms and Fields

1 train and implement practices that conserve water, reduce climate impacts, produce  
2 sustainably and humanely raised products, and improve wages and market competition.

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4 Reference: 2019-20 SB 5947  
5 <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5947&Year=2019&Initiative=false>

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