

WSDCCRES-937-190927-RECPASS-ENV-PROTECT THE GROWTH MANAGEMENT
ACT

1 **PROTECT THE GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT**

2 **WHEREAS** in 1990 at a time when there were 4,866,692 people in Washington, our state
3 legislators recognized that “uncoordinated and unplanned growth, together with a lack of
4 common goals expressing the public's interest in the conservation and the wise use of our
5 lands, pose a threat to the environment, sustainable economic development, and the
6 health, safety, and high quality of life enjoyed by residents of this state. It is in the public
7 interest that citizens, communities, local governments, and the private sector cooperate
8 and coordinate with one another in comprehensive land use planning. Further, the
9 legislature finds that it is in the public interest that economic development programs be
10 shared with communities experiencing insufficient economic growth.”;

11 **WHEREAS** in 1990 in response to these concerns the legislature created the Growth
12 Management Act (GMA) RCW 36.70A which includes 13 major planning goals devised
13 with implementation flexibility facilitated at the local level;

14 **WHEREAS** this visionary piece of legislation has enabled our great state to remain a
15 beautiful and desirable place to live, work, and recreate;

16 **WHEREAS** in 2019 the population of Washington State increased to 7,666,343 with a
17 predicted 2040 population of 9,235,561 almost double that of when the GMA was first
18 adopted;

19 **WHEREAS** this massive growth, if not carefully managed, threatens to cripple
20 infrastructure, consume agriculture and forest lands, destroy ecosystems, and to pollute
21 our air and water;

22 **WHEREAS** there have been numerous and ongoing shortsighted efforts to sabotage and
23 weaken the GMA under the false premise of making it more “flexible”; and

24 **WHEREAS** now more than ever the Growth Management Act is the most vital piece of
25 legislation needed to maintain and protect our state’s natural resources and quality of life,
26 and thus must be fiercely protected;

27 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Washington State Democratic Party Central
28 Committee calls upon our state legislators and relevant local jurisdictions to not sponsor
29 or support bills or policies that will weaken the Growth Management Act; and

30 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be circulated**
31 **to all Washington State Legislators and County Councils/Commissions.**

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33 Submitted by the WSDCC Environmental Caucus to the WSDCC for its consideration at
34 its September 28th, 2019 meeting in Yakima (Date Submitted: September 13th, 2019)

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- 2 The Resolutions Committee reviewed and amended this resolution and recommended it
- 3 be passed.