

WSDCC—940—LAB—SUPPORTING NEW REFINERY SAFETY REGULATIONS
**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NEW REFINERY WORKER
SAFETY REGULATIONS**

1
2
3
4 **WHEREAS** explosions and fires resulting from major releases of toxic and flammable
5 substances claimed the lives of thirteen workers in two of Washington’s petroleum
6 refineries in 1998 and 2010; and

7
8 **WHEREAS** major releases of hazardous substances at the state’s five petroleum
9 refineries not only kill and injure refinery workers, but can also harm residents and
10 businesses in nearby communities and damage the natural environment; and

11
12 **WHEREAS** the United States Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board’s
13 investigation of the 2010 incident found that the incident could have been avoided and
14 recommended substantial changes to Washington State’s Process Safety
15 Management regulations administered by the state’s Department of Labor and
16 Industries and further recommended that the State provide for a well-funded, well-
17 trained staff for enforcement of these regulations; and

18
19 **WHEREAS** the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries has
20 acknowledged that its current regulations for petrochemical refineries are outdated and
21 do not reflect current industry practices and has begun a process to promulgate new
22 regulations, *Process Safety Requirements for Petroleum Refineries*.

23
24 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Central
25 Committee support revised practical, meaningful and legally enforceable Process
26 Safety Management regulations for petroleum refineries that include:

- 27
- Modern engineering and management practices;
 - Strong worker collaboration rights;
 - Documentation of all safety decisions;
 - Procedures to learn from near misses; and
 - Clear timelines to implement corrective actions,

28
29
30
31
32 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic
33 Central Committee call on the Governor and State Legislature to provide for all
34 necessary monies and resources to ensure effective and timely compliance and
35 enforcement of the Process Safety Management regulations for petroleum refineries.

36
37 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution will be sent
38 to all Democratic Washington State legislators.