

RESOLUTION CALLING ON CONGRESS TO ADOPT NEW PRIORITIES

Whereas the current economic crisis is the worst in 80 years and has had a disproportionate impact on working and poor people; and

Whereas the U.S. economic crisis can be traced to (1) \$3.8 trillion in Bush-era tax cuts extending over 10 years, to investors, large corporations and the wealthiest households, with loopholes that allow many to avoid paying taxes; (2) reckless deregulation of the financial system that enabled irresponsible risks and produced economic catastrophe; (3) unchallenged military procurement spending; and (4) the estimated \$3 to \$5 trillion cost of ongoing unbudgeted wars (including costs of replacing equipment, interest, medical care for returning veterans and other residual costs); and

Whereas the U.S. economy has become increasingly polarized and unjust, with (1) top executives earning as much in a day as minimum wage earners can take home in two years, (2) the fruits of increased productivity not shared with workers who bear the burden of increased work, (3) real unemployment exceeding 15% and, in many communities of color, more than 50%, (4) social supports such as education, libraries, parks, and public safety increasingly underfunded, and (5) a crumbling public infrastructure that goes unrepaired; and

Whereas, under President Obama's leadership, Osama bin Laden has been executed and our troops are being withdrawn from Iraq and Afghanistan; and

Whereas the severity of the economic crisis has created, at all levels of government, budget shortfalls that call for a re-examination of the allocation of resources and national spending priorities;

Therefore, be it resolved that we support continuing and expediting the withdrawal of U.S. military and private security personnel from Iraq by year's end, as called for in the Status of Forces Agreement with the Iraqi government, and the simultaneous significant drawdown of military personnel from Afghanistan, with a firm date for total withdrawal as soon as that can be accomplished, but in no event later than the 2014 timeline previously announced by President Obama; and

Be it further resolved that we urge the Washington State Democratic Party to call on the U.S. Congress to:

- a. Bring our war dollars home by making a substantial reduction in overall military spending and using those resources to meet vital human needs, promote job creation, rebuild our infrastructure, aid municipal and state governments, and develop a new economy based on renewable, sustainable energy and technologies; and
- b. Reform the tax code so that the burden of taxation is fully progressive, removing loopholes and preventing methods by which wealthy individuals and multinational corporations avoid and evade taxes, so that (1) the functional top tax rate becomes an actual 35%, and (2) corporations can no longer avoid U.S. taxes by shifting revenues to foreign subsidiaries or tax havens; and

Be it finally resolved that we urge the Washington State Democratic Party, our Democratic Congressional delegation, and our own members to endorse and pledge to actively support legislation and other steps designed to create a more just, equitable and sustainable economy and a world in which moral leadership is more important than military might and our security is determined by the welfare of our people rather than the size of our military budget.

Adopted _____ *by* _____