

## **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN AUDIT OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE**

**Whereas**, we believe honest stewardship of the public money and credit is essential to social justice; and,

**Whereas**, we believe a transparent government governs best, and a transparent monetary system is essential to a stable, sustainable economy that avoids squandering resources; and,

**Whereas**, the Federal Reserve System (Fed), a non-governmental agency made up of major banks, is responsible for hundreds of billions of dollars of taxpayer monies appropriated as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008; and,

**Whereas**, the Fed can enter into agreements with foreign central banks and foreign governments; and,

**Whereas**, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) is prohibited from reviewing Fed agreements; and,

**Whereas**, the Fed has refused legal requests to make a public accounting of the funds popularly known as TARP funds; and,

**Whereas**, it recently became public knowledge that the Fed secretly bailed out investment bank Bear Stearns and kept it secret for two years; and,

**Whereas**, by promoting open and transparent government, an audit of the Fed will promote trust in government and bring accountability to the Federal Reserve System; and,

**Whereas**, HR 1207 "The Federal Reserve Transparency Act" has 319 bipartisan cosponsors, more than the majority needed to pass a bill through the House, and S 604 has 30 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate;

**Therefore be it Resolved**, that we call upon Congress to immediately pass, and President Barack Obama to sign into law, HR 1207 or S 604, requiring a full and complete audit of the Federal Reserve System, and that the results be immediately provided to Congress; and,

**Be it Further Resolved** that the complete record of all monies given as "bailouts" to any party, corporation, international bank, and government be made public information; and,

**Be it Finally Resolved** that this resolution be transmitted to the Members of Congress representing the State of Washington.

## **RESOLUTION URGING REPEAL OF CENTRALIA POWER PLANT TAX EXEMPTION**

**Whereas** Washington State's ability to meet its statutory goals for reducing emissions that contribute to global warming is undermined by continued use of coal-fired power generation at the Centralia Power Plant, which produces **10% of our state's entire CO<sup>2</sup> emissions**; and

**Whereas** the Centralia plant's coal-based emissions not only contribute to global warming but also create such immediate hazards as toxic mercury contamination of our lakes and streams, and serious air pollution problems including haze and view obstruction at national and state parks and recreation areas; and

**Whereas** the Centralia plant, now owned by TransAlta Corporation, a Canadian multinational, was granted a special tax exemption on the premise that it would continue to draw its coal supplies from the nearby Centralia coal mine and thereby preserve local jobs, but those 600 jobs were lost in 2006-07 when TransAlta closed the mine and began its current practice of importing all its coal from Idaho and Wyoming; and,

**Whereas** tax policy should assist us in meeting our State's goals of reducing emissions that contribute to global warming and other damage to public health and the environment; and,

**Whereas** Democrats have called for elimination of tax exemptions that are not demonstrated to create or keep jobs, when job creation or preservation was the basis for granting such special tax treatment;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that we urge our legislative delegation, the Legislature and Governor Gregoire to (1) bring about an immediate repeal of the special tax exemptions for the Centralia Power Plant and (2) phase out all use of coal for electricity production in Washington by 2020; and

**Be it further resolved** that we urge our Governor to focus special attention on finding and encouraging employers to establish manufacturing plants in Lewis County and around the state in order to provide more living-wage jobs for Washington residents.

**AFFIRMING THE RIGHT TO ABORTION:  
REPEAL THE HYDE AMENDMENT AND RESCIND THE EXECUTIVE ORDER  
RESTRICTING FEDERAL FUNDING OF ABORTIONS**

**Whereas** the decision to obtain an abortion is often one of the most difficult decisions women face; and,

**Whereas** the general right to obtain an abortion was affirmed by the United States Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* and reaffirmed in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*; and,

**Whereas** we Democrats believe abortion should be safe, legal, and rare,

**Whereas** President Obama campaigned as a pro-choice candidate; and,

**Whereas** President Obama signed an executive order that ensures “that Federal funds are not used for abortion services (except in cases of rape or incest, or when the life of the woman would be endangered)”; and,

**Whereas** the Hyde Amendment and President Obama’s executive order directly hinders the ability of large numbers of economically disadvantaged women to obtain safe and legal abortions; and,

**Whereas** the Hyde Amendment and President Obama’s executive order increase poverty among women and their families by limiting women's choices in life; and,

**Whereas** lack of access to safe and legal abortions will lead to increased deaths from illegal procedures,

**Therefore be it Resolved** that we urge President Obama to rescind his executive order relating to the implementation of abortion restrictions in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and,

**Be it Further Resolved** that the Endorsement Committee shall ask each federal candidate seeking the endorsement if they will introduce or cosponsor legislation repealing the Hyde Amendment; and,

**Be it Further Resolved** that a copy of this resolution be sent to President Barack Obama, the Washington State Congressional Delegation, and the Washington State Democratic Party.

## RESOLUTION ON PORT TRUCKING STANDARDS

**Whereas** the *New York Times* recently reported on the national air pollution crisis facing our nation's ports, caused in part by the underground economy of port trucking; and

**Whereas** port trucking operations are cogs in our local economy, moving millions of cargo containers each year; and

**Whereas** many of the men and women driving trucks at our ports, including the Port of Seattle, are exploited immigrants who drive polluting, poorly maintained diesel trucks in unsafe conditions and have no collective bargaining power; and

**Whereas** dangerous diesel pollution emitted by old port trucks directly impacts the health and safety of port neighborhoods like South Park and Georgetown; and

**Whereas** legal challenges by the American Trucking Association prevent local ports, such as the Port of Seattle, from setting environmental, safety, and labor standards for their own port trucking operations, like those adopted by the Port of Los Angeles; and

**Whereas** Congress is currently considering introducing legislation to address these lawsuits and empower ports to set environmental, safety and labor standards for port trucking operations; and

**Whereas** empowering ports to set environmental, safety and labor standards is supported by a wide range of organizations and leaders including: Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Steelworkers of America, Mayor of Seattle Mike McGinn and members of the Seattle City Council;

**Therefore be it Resolved** that we support empowering ports to set their own environmental, safety and labor standards for port trucking operations that are at least as stringent as those of the Port of Los Angeles; and,

**Be it Further Resolved** that we urge our elected Representatives and Senators to pass legislation to accomplish this goal; and

**Be it Further Resolved** that this resolution be forwarded to the Washington State Congressional Delegation, the Mayor of Seattle, members of the Seattle City Council, and to the Port of Seattle Commission.

## REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF VOTING FACILITIES

**Whereas** increasing voter participation is a key value of Democrats; and,

**Whereas** King County Elections converted to vote-by-mail and removed drop boxes when local voting locations were eliminated; and,

**Whereas** many people prefer not to vote until Election Day; and,

**Whereas** some people prefer to deliver their ballots directly to a secure location instead of a mailbox; and,

**Whereas** fewer people are buying stamps and requiring a stamp is a barrier tantamount to a poll tax; and,

**Whereas** people with disabilities need to have the same ability as non-disabled voters to vote by private ballot, and

**Whereas** King County owns thousands of electronic voting machines that would allow most people with disabilities to vote without assistance; and,

**Whereas** the locations for people with disabilities to vote have been severely limited (to Seattle Union Station, Bellevue City Hall and Tukwila), creating another barrier to voting independently and drop boxes are available only at those locations plus the King County Administration Building in Seattle; and,

**Whereas**, the locations of libraries are known and don't need to be posted;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that drop boxes and electronic voting machines for people with disabilities be made available at every Seattle and King County Public Library on Election Day.

**Be it also resolved** that this resolution be transmitted to the King County Executive, the King County Councilmembers and the Director of Elections, along with a request for an estimate of the budgetary amount that would be needed to enact it.