

Restoring the Public Trust

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3 **WHEREAS**, there appears to be a serious disconnect between what the public is asking
4 for and what the Federal Congress, State Legislature and local municipalities legislate
5 (including but not limited to universal health care, fully-funded education, bankruptcy
6 laws, etc.), and

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8 **WHEREAS**, an independent legislature free from any influence other than that of the
9 people is a cornerstone of our Constitution, and

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11 **WHEREAS**, to be truly representative, campaigns and elections should be controlled by
12 the citizenry at large, not by those who give the most money, and

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14 **WHEREAS**, it is estimated that a Congressman is forced to locate at least \$2,000 a day,
15 24-hours a day, seven days a week, every day of the year in order to have the requisite
16 dollars to win their next election and many of those dollars are provided by corporate
17 entities, and

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19 **WHEREAS**, professional lobbying efforts have burgeoned in both Washington DC and
20 Washington state, using large sums of money to influence legislators based on
21 corporate interests, often contrary to the interests of the average citizen, and

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23 **WHEREAS**, Congress, in seeking to clean up this problem itself, is proposing very
24 small changes that will remove only a small amount of the influence large corporations
25 have over law making in this country, and state and local governments generally accept
26 that in- and out-of-state corporate donations are acceptable:

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28 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Whatcom County Democrats (WCDCC) begin
29 to restore the public trust by asking Democrats across the state to join in support of a
30 bill that bans campaign contributions from lobbyists and state contractors, and
31 approves full public funding for Washington's political races (following Connecticut,
32 the first state in the nation where the legislature and governor have approved this kind
33 of plan); and

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35 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the WCDCC seeks the support of
36 grassroots Democrats and others seeking restoration of public trust throughout the
37 nation, in supporting similar legislation both in states and at a federal level.
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41 (Date Passed 04/12/2006 by Whatcom County Democrats)