

RESOLUTION in Support of the Washington State Ferry Worker Unions

Adopted unanimously on February 17, 2011

The Whatcom County Democrats stand in support of the Washington State Ferry Unions;

Whereas; the Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific, the International Organization of Masters, Mates, and Pilots, the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association, the Puget Sound Metal Trades, and the Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 8 represent over 1600 workers employed by the Washington State Ferry System and;

Whereas; these unions were the first to step up and defer their negotiated wage increases for the current biennium to bridge the state budget gap resulting in an 18.3 million dollar savings and;

Whereas; the Washington State Ferry Unions have reopened their contracts to negotiate further cost saving ideas for the 2011-2013 biennium and;

Whereas; the 2011 Legislative session has once again targeted the ferry worker unions by drafting SB 5405, 5406 and HB 1511, 1512 as measures that gut existing contractual agreements between labor and the employer as well as an outright assault on the collective bargaining process as a whole;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Whatcom County Democrats go on record supporting the maritime trade unions bargaining rights and;

Be it further resolved that the Whatcom County Democrats go on record opposing the State's legislative process as a means to undermining labor's right to bargain fairly and;

Be it finally resolved that the Whatcom County Democrats go on record opposing Senate Bills 5405 and 5406 and House Bills 1511 and 1512 and urges delegates and members to lobby against these bills by calling the legislative hotline at 800-562-6000.