Resolution Supporting a Carbon Fee and Dividend System

*Sponsored by Anne Engstrom, PCO 36-2120*

WHEREAS climate change is already causing stronger storms, droughts, and floods, and threatening habitats on which our ecosystems depend, and is expected to create more damage as greenhouse gas emissions increase;

WHEREAS these threats to our physical environment in turn threaten the social, political, and economic environment through secondary effects, including displacement of populations, resource conflicts, damaged or destroyed infrastructure, loss of crops, and more;

WHEREAS these effects will cause the most harm to vulnerable populations, including young people, the elderly, and those who have historically been excluded from sources of power;

WHEREAS numerous scientists from a wide range of disciplines have warned of the imminent threat of climate change and the urgent need to act now to prevent the worst outcomes;

WHEREAS the nations that have contributed the most to global warming have a responsibility to reduce their emissions dramatically;

WHEREAS fossil fuels are the most significant cause of greenhouse gas emissions;

WHEREAS the development of alternative energy requires significant investment;

WHEREAS some proposals to address climate change are risky, unproven, and complicated, requiring massive government bureaucracies to administer, and may create damaging environmental and/or economic side effects;

WHEREAS a simple but effective method to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to impose a fee on fossil fuels at their source, which will discourage consumption while encouraging investment in non-carbon alternatives;

WHEREAS the regressive effects of such a fee can be counteracted by redistributing the revenue from this fee to consumers;

WHEREAS a carbon fee that increases regularly each year will send a clear price signal to investors, encouraging investment in alternative energy;

WHEREAS the 36th District and Washington State Dem. have already supported a fee that rises annually on carbon at its source and return the revenue to consumers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The 36th District Democrats endorse the carbon Fee and dividend proposal, that has a rising fee on carbon with border adjustments and 100% of the dividends coming back to the people .

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon our Representatives and Senators to introduce or support this proposal as legislation.