

## **RESOLUTION supporting the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2010**

WHEREAS on April 20, 2010 an explosion on a British Petroleum (BP) oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico resulted in the deaths of 11 workers and a hole in an undersea well that sent millions of barrels of oil gushing continuously into the Gulf for months; and

WHEREAS domes, caps and other technologies tried by BP repeatedly failed to stop oil from flowing into the Gulf, and its application of dispersants has produced a further range of problems; and

WHEREAS negative ecological impacts include but are not limited to underwater oil plumes that have reduced oxygen, damaged algae & seaweed, smothered fish, birds, turtles and other wildlife, and brought potential long-term sickness and disease to the immune, metabolic and reproductive systems of life dependent on the Gulf water; and

WHEREAS damage caused by the BP oil spill to fishing, tourism and related industries has brought serious harm to the economies of Gulf states, in an amount already in apparent excess of \$20 billion; and

WHEREAS Washington State's coastal region has high ecological value, supports over 150,000 jobs and generates almost \$10 billion in economic activity annually; and

WHEREAS Washington Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray have introduced legislation to protect the West Coast from a similar disaster by replacing and making permanent a 20-year oil drilling moratorium that expired in 2008; and

WHEREAS the United States must find better and more innovative ways to supply energy without damaging our natural resources; and

WHEREAS the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2010, which will amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit offshore drilling by prohibiting the Secretary of the Interior from issuing any lease for the exploration, development, or production of oil or natural gas on the outer Continental Shelf off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington, is of critical importance to protecting our Pacific coastal waters from impacts such as those suffered along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats that:

- A. We commend Senators Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray for their efforts to permanently prohibit oil drilling off the West Coast, so as to protect our state's coastal ecology and economy from such disasters; and
- B. We urge that passage of the West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2010 be made a top priority in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives; and
- C. This Resolution shall be sent to Senators Cantwell and Murray, the Democratic leadership of the Senate and House, and to President Obama, with a request for a response indicating what actions will be taken in furtherance thereof or a statement of why no such action will be taken.

*Adopted August 19, 2010, by the 46th District Democrats*