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2 **Restrict First Use of Nuclear Weapons and Require Congressional Approval**
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5 WHEREAS the foreign policy platform of the Washington State Democratic Party begins: “We
6 must not conduct preemptive war and make diplomacy and nonviolent conflict resolution the
7 primary organizing principle of foreign policy”;

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9 WHEREAS the Constitution of the United States, Article 1, Section 8 states: “Congress shall
10 have the power... to declare War... “;

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12 WHEREAS the President currently has sole authority to launch a first-use nuclear strike, a policy
13 that increases the risk of nuclear war and is vulnerable to accidents and miscommunication;

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15 WHEREAS there are over 15,000 nuclear weapons globally, most possessed by the United
16 States and Russia, many significantly more destructive than those used by the U.S. in Hiroshima
17 and Nagasaki;

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19 WHEREAS use and detonation of even a small number of nuclear weapons would have
20 catastrophic human, environmental, and economic consequences globally;

21
22 WHEREAS Jefferson County’s proximity to Seattle as well as major military installations puts it
23 at great risk for any nuclear strike in the Northwest;

24
25 WHEREAS President Donald Trump has called for a major buildup of nuclear weapons, which
26 will incite other countries to do the same and dramatically increase the risks of nuclear war; and

27
28 WHEREAS the United States is on track to spend \$1 trillion over the next 30 years to upgrade its
29 nuclear arsenal.

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31 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Democrats condemn President
32 Trump’s reckless agenda that makes us targets of nuclear war;

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34 THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Jefferson County Democrats support the
35 Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons ACT of 2017 (H.R. 669 and S. 200) that would
36 prevent the President from unilaterally launching a nuclear first strike without a Congressional
37 Declaration of War Authorization;

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39 THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Democrats call on our
40 legislators, Representative Kilmer and Senators Murray and Cantwell, to publicly reject
41 President Trump’s nuclear agenda and to support H.R. 669 and S. 200 by co-sponsoring this
42 legislation; and
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44 THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Democrats urge the
45 Washington State Democratic Party to call on the Washington State Congressional delegation to
46 co-sponsor H.R. 669/S. 200 and ask that this issue be considered as an addition to the party's
47 Foreign Affairs platform.

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