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Resolution on

Requiring that the Navy Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement for Its Electronic Warfare Range on the Olympic Peninsula

WHEREAS, the Navy has segmented its public input processes in such a way that the collective impact of their activity will not be assessed and the process has been confusing to the public;

WHEREAS, the Navy did not adequately notify the public about their environmental assessment of the electronic warfare range, and did not receive any public comments, and did not disclose that ships at sea would also be involved;

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Olympic Peninsula including Tribes have deep concerns about the impact of Navy activities on their environment, their quality of life, and their local economy;

WHEREAS, the Forest Service did not conduct its own independent scientific investigation but has announced that it will determine that the Navy’s claim that their activities will have no significant impact, despite the serious procedural flaws;

WHEREAS, the Navy did not begin to evaluate Growler jet noise until five years after they were deployed, and that evaluation, which has been delayed, still does not address jet noise on the Olympic Peninsula;

WHEREAS The Navy plans an expansion of explosive activities and sonar producing 235 decibels in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the waters off Indian Island, Puget Sound, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, and the Navy estimates hundreds of thousands of marine mammals would be killed or harmed as a result;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Democratic party will call on its Congressional delegation to urge the Navy and Forest Service to reduce its impacts on communities and the surrounding environment, and to complete a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement on its plans, giving full regard to the intent of the Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and providing the public with opportunities for authentic participation at every step.

Submitted April 17, 2016 by Douglas Milholland
Edited by Bruce Cowan, JCD Chair and member of Resolutions Committee and Karen Sullivan,
West Coast Action Alliance Edits approved by submitter.

Approved as Do Consider by JCD Resolutions Committee, 4-20-16

Signed by Submitter: _____ Date: _____

Approved/ Not approved at May 1 Convention/ JCD meeting

Signature of Convention Secretary: _____ Date: _____