

## **RESOLUTION AGAINST LNG (LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS) TANKERS AND TERMINALS IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER**

**WHEREAS**, the Republican-controlled Congress passed the 2005 Energy Bill, which granted the presidential-appointed panel at FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) the sole and exclusive authority to site LNG (liquified natural gas) terminals in the United States, even over the objections of the affected states' governors;

**WHEREAS** there are plans to site LNG terminals in the Columbia River estuary near Astoria, as well as at Coos Bay in order to supply California with vast quantities of natural gas after California's citizens and politicians united to adamantly oppose LNG in California's harbors and along their coastlines;

**WHEREAS** a typical LNG tanker, which is over 3 football fields long and carries 35 million gallons of LNG--which is the equivalent of 20 billion gallons of natural gas—could explode with the energy of 55 Hiroshima bombs, engulfing nearby communities in an inferno;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS** the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on Jan. 8, 2008 which states that LNG tankers are prime terrorist targets and the Coast Guard is stretched too thin to provide adequate protection for those tankers;

**WHEREAS** LNG in the Columbia River estuary creates a threat to critical salmon habitat and each outgoing LNG tanker would take 20 million gallons of fresh water with it as dead weight to stabilize the empty ship<sup>2</sup>;

**WHEREAS**, due to the extreme risk of explosion, the Coast Guard requires a 1500-ft. 'safety exclusion zone' on each side of LNG tankers, which would force boaters, recreational and commercial fishermen to the margins of the Columbia River and 24 hour surveillance cameras would invade the privacy of ordinary citizens;

**WHEREAS** the National Grange, the oldest farm and rural public interest organization in the United States, vigorously opposes LNG tankers, terminals and pipelines because they threaten public safety, degrade the environment and obstruct the movement of farm products down the Columbia River to market;

**WHEREAS** Congressman Brian Baird (D), along with 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative District representatives Dean Takko (D-Longview), Brian Blake (D-Aberdeen) and state senator Brian Hatfield (D-Raymond) have announced their opposition to LNG in the Columbia River;

**WHEREAS** other governors across the nation have taken a leadership role in fighting LNG, but Gov. Gregoire, Senator Murray and Senator Cantwell are, as yet, unwilling to oppose LNG in the Columbia River;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democrats call on each and every one of our Washington state and federal representatives and the Oregon Democratic Central Committee and United States Congressman David Wu (D-OR) to oppose LNG in the Columbia River because

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1 [http://timriley.com/LNG\\_TANKERS.htm](http://timriley.com/LNG_TANKERS.htm)

2 <http://www.oregonlive.com/oregonian/stories/index.ssf?/base/editorial/1188255348196890.xml&coll=7>

importing even more foreign fossil fuels is a major step in the wrong direction and the Columbia River should not be exploited as the back door for California's natural gas imports.

Submitted by the 12<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for consideration, January 14, 2008

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY by the Washington State Democratic Central Committee, January 26, 2008, Vancouver, WA