

2022 January 29 WSDCC Meeting

WSDCCRES – 987 – 220129 – GOV – Growth Sprawl

Passed at the January 29th, 2022 meeting of the WSDCC

SUPPORT CLOSING THE SPRAWL GROWTH LOOPHOLE IN THE GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT

WHEREAS Washington State’s population is expected to reach 10 million by mid-century according to the Office of Financial Management forecast, and

WHEREAS urban sprawl encroaches on farmlands, forests, shrub-steppe and other critical habitats, the combination of habitat loss and pollution being directly responsible for the 35 species on the Washington State Endangered Species list, and 5 others on the Washington State Threatened Species list, and

WHEREAS urban sprawl creates undue financial burden on taxpayers and jurisdictions to provide adequate facilities, utility infrastructure, and services needed to serve these new developments that sprawl beyond current service areas, and

WHEREAS the Growth Management Act (GMA) RCW 36.70A was intended to reduce urban sprawl, a legal framework loophole allows cities and counties to accept, vest, and issue development permits during the Growth Management Hearings Board (GMHB) appeals process and the permits remain valid no matter what the GMAB decides,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic Party endorses legislation that will close the sprawl growth loophole in the Growth Management Act by setting a new effective date for actions relating to urban growth areas, agricultural, wetlands, forest or mineral resources lands, limited areas of more intensive rural development, new fully contained communities, planned residential developments, or master planned resorts as proposed in 2021 SB 5042, and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor of the State of Washington and all Washington State House and Senate Democrats. And that it be submitted to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its January 2022 meeting.
