

## RESOLUTION 16 -11

### **Resolution Supporting Sustainable Agriculture**

WHEREAS, "sustainable" agriculture means producing food in ways that do not harm the environment;

WHEREAS, in the United States the vast majority of our food is grown at an industrial scale, relying on intensive inputs of synthetic fertilizer and pesticides, which in turn are heavily dependent in their manufacture on fossil fuel;

WHEREAS, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency, agriculture is the single largest source of pollution to the nation's rivers and streams;

WHEREAS, dependence on energy throughout the food chain raises concerns about the impact of high or volatile energy prices on the price of food, as well as about domestic food security and the Nation's reliance on imported energy;

WHEREAS, as long as the food system in the United States consumes one fifth of the total American use of fossil fuel-generated energy, we cannot meet critically important national carbon reduction targets without reforming the food system;

WHEREAS, agribusiness is one of the most concentrated sectors in the U.S. economy: four companies (JBS/Swift, Tyson, Cargill, and National Beef Packers) slaughter 85 percent of US beef cattle; two companies (Monsanto and DuPont) sell more than 50 percent of US corn seed; one company (Dean Foods) controls 40 percent of the US milk supply;

WHEREAS, well-managed farm and ranch lands provide important non-market goods and services such as food and cover for wildlife, flood-control, protection of wetlands and watersheds, filtration of waste water, and groundwater recharge;

WHEREAS, the movement for sustainable food systems embodies social and economic values as well as environmental values and promotes policies that will make healthy food more affordable and accessible;

WHEREAS, Washington State has supported innovative programs and proactive policies that help support Washington's family farmers and at the same time fight hunger and poverty in communities across the state by such programs as the Farmers Market Nutrition Program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Clallam County Democrats urge elected representatives at all levels to pass legislation that supports ecologically sound sustainable agriculture, including appropriations that incentivize the preservation and future use of arable land.

*Passed at the General Membership Meeting on 5/28/2016*