

Resolution Regarding Illegal Domestic Surveillance

WHEREAS, the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees to the American people the right 'to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures';

WHEREAS, the Fourth Amendment provides that courts shall issue 'warrants' to authorize searches and seizures, based upon probable cause;

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has consistently held for nearly 40 years that the monitoring and recording of private conversations constitutes a 'search and seizure' within the meaning of the Fourth Amendment;

WHEREAS, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 establishes the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (commonly referred to as the 'FISA court'), and the procedures by which the United States Government may obtain a court order authorizing electronic surveillance (commonly referred to as a 'FISA warrant') for foreign intelligence collection in the United States;

WHEREAS, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 makes criminal any electronic surveillance not authorized by statute;

WHEREAS, Senate Joint Resolution 23 (107th Congress), as adopted by the Senate on September 14, 2001, and House Joint Resolution 64 (107th Congress), as adopted by the House of Representatives on September 14, 2001, together enacted as the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40), to authorize military action against those responsible for the attacks on September 11, 2001, do not contain legal authorization nor approve of domestic electronic surveillance, including 'domestic electronic surveillance of United States citizens, without a judicially approved warrant:

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush has confirmed that his administration engages in warrantless electronic surveillance of Americans inside the United States and that he has authorized such warrantless surveillance more than 30 times since September 11, 2001; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Whatcom County Democrat Central Committee (WCDCC) condemns the domestic spying using electronic means by agencies of the federal government on U.S. citizens as illegal and unconstitutional;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support S. Res. 350 introduced by Senator Patrick Leahy on January 20, 2006 and urge Washington Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell to give it their vigorous support, both by voting for it and by encouraging their colleagues to vote for it;

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38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we support immediate Congressional action to hold
39 President Bush and those in his administration responsible for this illegal behavior to be
40 held accountable in a court of law as expeditiously as possible.
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43 Submitted to Precinct 34-0846 in King County
44 for consideration at its March 4, 2006 Precinct Caucus by:

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