

34th District Democrats
King County Washington

Resolution Regarding Public Financing of Professional Basketball
Passed at the March 14, 2007, District Meeting

WHEREAS, while we recognize the arguments put forward about the economic benefits derived from the existence of professional basketball teams in our community and while we would love to keep the Seattle Sonics in Seattle, we believe that similar investments in teachers, our schools and local non-professional sports, in our health care system and in environmental programs would be more appropriate and have greater long-lasting effects on the well-being of our community; and

WHEREAS, we have made substantial investments in professional sports in the past and now face the prospect of teams leaving the area because they want more investment while we are still paying off old investments; and

WHEREAS, recent statewide polls indicate 77 percent of the public oppose use of public dollars for major sports facilities and 71 percent believe pro sports owners should pay for such facilities without public subsidies; and

WHEREAS, voters in Seattle overwhelmingly approved Initiation 91, which put restrictions on funding of professional sports; and

WHEREAS, Governor Gregoire has indicated a willingness to consider public financing in the amount of \$300 million for a new professional basketball stadium in Renton,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 34th District Democrats voice their strong opposition to public funding of this stadium and urge our legislators to oppose legislation that would use state funds to build the stadium.

Copies of this resolution will be sent to state Representatives Cody and McDermott, Senator Paulsen and Governor Gregoire.