

Resolution of the 35th LD Democrats to Recognize the Importance of the Kitsap SEED Project

WHEREAS the 35th LD Democrats recognize that the Kitsap SEED Project (SEED) is a project of the Port of Bremerton that is focused around Sustainable Energy and Economic Development;

WHEREAS the 35th LD Democrats recognize that the Kitsap SEED project is aimed at creating a business incubator facility that will encourage entrepreneurial business development with expertise available to assist businesses to be successful from startup through intermediate phases and to large scale production as applicable. Similar high-technology business incubators have had success rates of over 87% according to Tim Thompson, 2008 Director of the SEED Project, Port of Bremerton;

WHEREAS the 35th LD Democrats recognize that the Kitsap SEED project has a goal to use LEED standards (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) and landscapes using Low Impact Development (LID) in the construction of buildings for the business incubator. Such design guidelines are shown to save money for the maintenance and operation of physical buildings, maintain higher occupancy rates and maintain higher value over time. A study by the U.S. Green Building Council shows Gold and Platinum LEED certified buildings have an average energy savings approaching 50% compared to peer non-green buildings;

WHEREAS the 35th LD Democrats recognize that the Kitsap SEED project of the Port of Bremerton is a highly valued project to attract livable wage jobs to the Kitsap Peninsula in the area that is comprised of the 35th Legislative District and that this project is supported by the Kitsap Economic Development Alliance (KEDA) and public officials throughout Kitsap County and Washington State;

WHEREAS the 35th LD Democrats recognize that attracting livable-wage skilled jobs to our region is a priority in order to diversify our local economy that is comprised mostly of military and public sector jobs;

WHEREAS the 35th LD Democrats recognize that economic diversification is beneficial to balance the tax base, reduce the percentage of our local workforce that relies on out-of-county commute trips, attract families to balance our depleting school age children populations, and to enable more citizens live and work in our community, thus, allowing more people to contribute to our social network;

WHEREAS the 35th LD Democrats recognize that the Kitsap SEED project has been a project of the Port of Bremerton for four years but that recently the Port of Bremerton has begun to reconsider its support of the Kitsap SEED project, due to concerns over support for the project and for following due diligence in the economic analysis of the merits of the project;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the 35th LD Democrats, representing persons and elected officials residing in the area generally associated with the location of the Port of Bremerton offices and its boundaries, declare their support for the Kitsap SEED project as a worthwhile venture to attract clean-technology and high-technology companies and to create economic diversity in the region with livable wage jobs.

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, by this Resolution in Support of the Kitsap SEED Project, the 35th LD Democrats will instruct the Chair of the 35th LD Democrats to forward this resolution and indicate the support of the project to the Port of Bremerton Commissioners: Cheryl Kincer, Bill Mahan, and Larry Stokes. The Chair of the 35th LD Democrats shall encourage and invite the Port of Bremerton Commissioners to discuss their views on this project and the priorities of the Port of Bremerton with this organization and with members of the public.