

ECCRES – #18-001– OPPOSE UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR ON PRIME FARMLAND

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR FACILITIES
SITED ON PRIME FARMLAND**

1
2
3
4 **WHEREAS**, solar power is a critical part of a low-carbon renewable energy future, and is
5 required to address global climate change, and
6

7 **WHEREAS**, solar power is poised for much-needed rapid growth as result of technological
8 improvements and cost reductions in addition to federal and state incentive programs, and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, zoning regulations concerning siting of utility-scale solar projects do not yet exist
11 in most areas of Washington State, and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, land currently occupied by agriculture is unfortunately easily developable into
14 solar facilities, and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, agriculture, and irrigated agriculture in particular, has inestimable value to local
17 economies and to society, and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, farmland is irreplaceable, and conversion to utility-scale solar use risks damaging
20 or otherwise permanently removing farmland from agricultural production, and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the Growth Management Act requires preservation of prime farmland as defined
23 by the USDA,
24

25 **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the Environment and Climate Caucus of the
26 Washington State Democratic Central Committee opposes the development of prime farmland
27 into utility-scale solar facilities or parts of utility-scale solar projects.
28

29
30

PASSED by the Kittitas County Democratic Party at its December 8, 2017 meeting. Passed by
31 the ECC January 17, 2018.