

ECCRES – #18-007– OPPOSITION TO MILITARY EXPANSION ONTO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND

OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATION CALLING FOR MILITARY EXPANSION ONTO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND CONSIDERED TO BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH CURRENT AND FUTURE OPERATIONS

WHEREAS, passage of HB2341 and SB6456 protecting military installations operated by the United States armed services from incompatible development places an unfair burden on citizens, cities and counties, agencies, public health, emergency services, and the environment, and

WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature established the Growth Management Act in 1976 to implement long-range land use planning that considers growth, jobs, housing, open space, shorelines, open space, and the environment, and

WHEREAS, passage of HB2341 and SB6456 enables the military to force state and local comprehensive land use planning programs and processes to accommodate current and open-ended future military mission and expansion requirements on publicly and privately owned land deemed incompatible for military operations, and

WHEREAS, requirements for mapping and notifying affected property owners is not required, leaving citizens and jurisdictions in the dark about future impacts to property values, uses, housing availability, local businesses, emergency services, traffic, noise, and water and air quality, and

WHEREAS, enabling the military to place restrictions on, and limit the use of private property constitutes a taking, and

WHEREAS, the Fifth Amendment of the United States requires due process of the law preventing the taking of private property for public use, without just compensation, and

WHEREAS, passage of HB2341 and SB6456 calls for the state to create a 25 million dollar fund to be allocated under a competitive process to pay for military impacts leaving many landowners with no guarantee of compensation, and environmentally sensitive areas at risk, and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA), the Shoreline Master Program, the Endangered Species Act, and Environmental Impact studies, will be difficult to administer and enforce on land, water, and airspace occupied by the military, and

WHEREAS, comprehensive land use planning that protects public and private land, endangered species, wetlands and environmentally sensitive areas will take a back seat to military operations,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Environment and Climate Caucus of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee opposes legislation that forces cities and counties to allow military expansion of current and future operations and missions without full conformity to the Washington State Growth Management Act, public due process, and compensation for the taking of land and community impacts; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor’s Office and to Democratic legislators.

Passed by the ECC on January, 17 2018.

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50 This resolution was inspired by environmental groups and the many citizens residing in Island, Jefferson,
51 Skagit, Kitsap, and San Juan Counties that have been impacted by military expansion and exercises,
52 occurring largely without true cost and benefit analyses or Environmental Impact Studies.