

BCDCCRES-09-140412-PASS-GOV

Resolution in support of a Washington State Investment Trust

1 **WHEREAS** Washington State Senate Bill 5029 proposes the establishing of a Washington Investment
2 Trust (a state bank) and

3 **WHEREAS** this Trust is patterned after the Bank of North Dakota, which has successfully met the
4 banking needs of the people and businesses of North Dakota since 1919 and has contributed a third of a
5 billion dollars to the North Dakota general fund, between 2000 and 2009, and

6 **WHEREAS** in the proposed Bill, the Washington State legislature finds that there are significant public
7 infrastructure needs of the state that are unmet and

8 **WHEREAS** the legislature further finds that there are opportunities to use the State's depository assets to
9 generate additional benefit for the people and the economy of the State, and

10 **WHEREAS** the State of Washington currently deposits its revenue funds – and pays for this privilege –
11 into a for-profit, out-of-state financial institution to meet its day-to-day obligations and

12 **WHEREAS** Washington State's funds, as well as fees paid to this account, can be used to benefit
13 shareholders of the for-profit institution in ways that may not benefit the taxpayers of Washington State,
14 and

15 **WHEREAS** the State of Washington also pays interest to for-profit financial institutions to fund its debt
16 obligations, and again, these interest payments may not benefit the taxpayers of Washington State;

17 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Democrats of Benton County endorse Senate Bill 5029
18 (creation of a Washington Investment Trust), which would facilitate investment in and financing of vital
19 public infrastructure, and

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Investment Trust would allow taxpayer dollars to be deposited
21 into the Trust and allow these funds to be used to pay State financial obligations. Because this Trust
22 would be a State entity and not a for-profit financial institution, financial transactions fees would not be
23 paid to a for-profit, out-of-state bank, as is currently the case, and

24 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the mission of the Trust is to use the money that Washington State
25 currently deposits in a for-profit bank in ways to benefit the people and economy of the State. Use of the
26 Trust will avoid paying transactions fees to a for-profit bank and assure that money deposited in the Trust
27 will benefit the taxpayers of Washington State. Any interest earnings in excess to those necessary for the
28 continued sound operation of the Trust would be deposited to the State's general fund.

29 *Submitted by Alan Hopko to the Benton County Democratic Convention, April 12, 2014*

30 *Adopted by the Benton County Democratic Convention April 12, 2014.*