

POPULATION POLICY OF THE GREEN PARTY OF SKAGIT COUNTY ADOPTED AT THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON MAY 2, 2011

Whereas the Earth's resources are finite; and

Whereas Earth's human population and its demands have already surpassed sustainable limits, as evidenced by research showing that the majority of Earth's ecosystem services are now seriously compromised by excess demand, this research conducted by thousands of scientists from the UN's Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the Pew Oceans Trust, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Ecological Footprint Network, and the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), to name a few of the most prominent; and

Whereas Earth's human population is projected to surpass 8 billion by the year 2050 and perhaps as many as 10 billion by 2100, numbers that are even less sustainable than at present; and

Whereas the UN's Millennium Development Goals of 2000 to eliminate extreme poverty and hunger in the world and to provide family planning resources to all women have not only not been met, but are even farther from realization today because of growing population and demand, exacerbated by inattention from governments around the world, both local and national; and

Whereas growing poverty and hunger are resulting in social upheaval and violent conflict in countries around the world, which will continue to worsen as peak oil and climate change collide with growing demand to raise prices of food, housing, water, education, medical care, and other basic social amenities; and

Whereas Washington's Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), in 2009, approved a comprehensive set of Environmental and Sustainability Learning Standards to be implemented at all grade levels and in all curricula in all public schools; and

Whereas the single most important factor determining whether or not the human species achieves sustainability is our ability to control our numbers.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the issues and problems surrounding human population and its ecosystem demands shall receive the highest priority for incorporation in age-appropriate ways into existing public school curricula at all grade levels and in all subject areas, this includes but isn't limited to concepts such as carrying capacity, family planning and birth control, contraception, sterilization, abortion, protection from sexually transmitted diseases, women's right to choose, poverty, hunger, and the inverse relationship between family size, quality of life, and student achievement; and

Therefore be it further resolved that the Green Party of Skagit County shall encourage all families to voluntarily limit family size to one child per family until the global human population is reduced to a more sustainable level in the neighborhood of 2 billion people, the number alive less that a century ago when Lindbergh first flew the Atlantic. This encouragement is best accomplished by promoting educational discussion groups among citizens from all walks of life highlighting all the aforementioned topics in parallel with public school curricula.