

International Longshore and Warehouse Union
Thirty-fifth International Convention
San Diego, California
June 4 – 8, 2012

M/S/C/U
6/7/12 pm

Resolution # R-27

OPPOSITION TO MANNING REDUCTIONS AT THE WASHINGTON STATE FERRIES

WHEREAS: safety is the most important element of any job, but of special importance in dangerous environments such as on or near the waters of the maritime industry; and

WHEREAS: the merchant mariners working aboard the Washington State Ferries are required to possess United States Coast Guard regulated documents, Homeland Security regulated documents, as well as be trained in current firefighting, first-aid, hazmat, and rescue techniques and practices; and

WHEREAS: the mariners of the Washington State Ferries are responsible for the safety of not only themselves but also the thousands of passengers they transport each day across the frigid waters of the Puget Sound; and

WHEREAS: manning on the Washington State Ferries has exceeded the United States Coast Guard minimum, the employer has in the past recognized that passenger numbers, vessel sizes and configurations, weather, and other maritime conditions require more than minimum manning of WSF vessels to maintain safety; and

WHEREAS: Washington State Ferries vessels are presently undermanned when compared to other ferry systems in the passenger industry; THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: that the 35th ILWU Convention wholeheartedly supports the mariners working in the fleet of the Washington State Ferries in their fight to maintain safe manning levels on their vessels; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: that the ILWU delegates within the State of Washington heed any calls to participate in any future labor actions over this issue and make every effort to express their concerns to their elected representatives if called upon to do so.