

Resolution in Support of the Creation of a NOBEL Women Task Force Regarding the Electoral College and Modernized Constitutional Amendments

WHEREAS, the Electoral College has been a foundational component of the United States presidential election system since its establishment in the Constitution in 1787, providing a balance between populous and less populous states; and

WHEREAS, the Electoral College was created during a period when the views and values of the framers were influenced by the social and political context of the time, including the existence of slavery and the exclusion of many groups from the democratic process, which has led to ongoing debates about its fairness and representation; and

WHEREAS, while the Electoral College ensures that presidential candidates must campaign and address issues across the entire nation rather than focusing solely on densely populated urban areas, it also reflects historical compromises that did not account for the rights and voices of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing discourse on the need for modernized adjustments to better reflect contemporary democratic values, promote equality, and ensure fairness in representation; and

WHEREAS, changes to the Electoral College should be approached with thoughtful consideration and respect for the constitutional framework, acknowledging that any alterations require the rigorous process of a constitutional amendment to maintain the integrity of our democratic institutions; and

WHEREAS, the constitutional amendment process necessitates broad consensus, ensuring that any changes to the Electoral College are thoroughly debated, understood, and supported by a super-majority of both Congress and the states;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that NOBEL-Women encourages robust and informed discussions among policymakers, scholars, and the public on potential modernized changes to the Electoral College; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the position of NOBEL-Women is for any proposed changes to the Electoral College be pursued through the proper constitutional amendment process, ensuring that such changes are made with deliberate care and broad consensus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a task force be created to help facilitate the position of NOBEL-Women regarding the historical context of the Electoral College and its impact to the U.S. presidential election system; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the President of NOBEL-Women create a task force with a purpose of fostering a comprehensive understanding of the Electoral College, its historical context, and the constitutional amendment process by facilitating educational initiatives, forums, and legislative discussions among elected officials and the public.

Wildfire Resilience Resolution

WHEREAS, the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events due to the effects of climate change, including catastrophic wildfires, are challenging electric companies and the customers and communities they serve, and

WHEREAS, in addition to their impact on individuals, communities, and public safety, wildfires can imperil energy grid operations, and

WHEREAS, wildfires create the potential for uncapped liability for electric companies, even before any responsibility for a wildfire has been determined. This can include liability for significant non-economic losses. This liability threatens companies' ability to provide resilient clean energy to all customers, and

WHEREAS, many insurance companies are leaving the wildfire insurance market in the face of increased risks, making it difficult for companies and customers to procure appropriate or affordable insurance to address wildfire risks and losses. This exacerbates liability concerns for companies and leaves those who have suffered losses with few resources, and

WHEREAS, many electric companies are making significant investments to ensure that the energy grid can provide resilient clean energy in the face of increasingly severe weather conditions, and

WHEREAS, as part of these investments, they are working to limit potential wildfire ignitions related to their infrastructure, including deployment of new technologies to ensure better situational awareness and wildfire detection capabilities, selective undergrounding of high-priority lines, the use of covered conductors to limit sparking of broken lines, and expanded use of automatic reclosers with more sensitive settings to prevent sparking when debris blows into power lines, and

WHEREAS, research shows that changes in the climate create warmer and drier conditions leading to longer and more active fire seasons. While electric companies are investing to address the risks that climate change might pose, the increasing frequency and destructive force of wildfires must be addressed holistically, and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local governments also have a role in addressing the increased wildfire risks; and

WHEREAS, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative (NOBEL) Women recognizes that increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events, including catastrophic wildfires, could threaten an electric companies' ability to provide resilient clean energy to customers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NOBEL Women urges collaboration among regulators, policymakers, and stakeholders in reducing wildfire risks and ensuring the energy grid can provide resilient, clean energy in the face of climate change.