

## **The Urgency of Clean Water**

**WHEREAS**, clean water is a human right and an environmental safety gauge, necessary for humanity and all life to exist; and

**WHEREAS**, safe and readily available water is important for public health, whether it is used for drinking, domestic use, food production or recreational purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2022, globally, at least 1.7 billion people use a drinking water source contaminated with feces. Microbial contamination of drinking-water as a result of contamination with feces poses the greatest risk to drinking-water safety; and

**WHEREAS**, access to clean water is beneficial for individuals and communities because water free of high levels of toxins prevents not only deaths but also severe illnesses that cause painful cramping, diarrhea, vomiting, fevers, and other symptoms; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the regions in the United States experiencing poor access to water or conditions are in predominantly Black or Hispanic communities, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau; and

**WHEREAS**, almost half of the tap water in the United States is contaminated with chemicals known as “forever chemicals,” according to a study from the US Geological Survey; and

**WHEREAS**, one person dies from unsafe drinking water every ten seconds; and

**WHEREAS**, improved water supply, sanitation, and management of water resources can boost economic growth and contribute to poverty reduction; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, experts say it’s important for people to understand their risk of exposure through tap water.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative (NOBEL) Women encourages efforts at the federal, state, and local levels of government, that raise awareness about the importance of clean water.