



Resolution Urging an Update on Telecommunications Laws

WHEREAS, the Internet has flourished into a vibrant marketplace with positive effects for women and minorities; and

WHEREAS, the United States leads the world with Internet infrastructure investment with \$1.2 trillion invested from 1996 to 2011 and this investment is enabling and growing the American economy by creating thousands of jobs and driving innovation; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) acknowledged in its 16th Mobile Competition Report that 91.6% of U.S. citizens have a choice of 3 or more wireless broadband providers, and 97.8% have access to at least two; and

WHEREAS, the FCC reports that annual investment in U.S. wireless networks grew more than 40% between 2009 and 2012, from \$21 billion to \$30 billion; and

WHEREAS, 94% of the U.S. population has access to a wired broadband provider; and

WHEREAS, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislation (NOBEL) Women reported in our Joint Policy Paper with the National Foundation of Women Legislators in 2009, "Empowering Women in the 21st Century: Paving the Way with Broadband and Mobility", that economic opportunity and jobs, better health care, education for the twenty-first century, sustainability and energy independence, investment and innovation that improve lives, public safety, and civic empowerment can all be advanced by harnessing the power of broadband; and

WHEREAS, continued investment and innovation in broadband will provide additional competitive choices and affordable options for advanced home-based and mobile broadband allowing communities to further capitalize on this technology; and

WHEREAS, the current regulatory approach applied to broadband networks remains rooted in the restrictive approach applied to old technologies of the telephone era and creates uncertainty and the constant potential for the imposition or expansion of rules that undermine incentives to invest, innovate and create new networks that benefit our society and economy; and

WHEREAS, a new policy framework should be created that applies to all companies in the Internet ecosystem including network providers, software makers, applications developers, and device manufacturers and relies on government intervention only when consumers or competition is harmed by the actions of any player; and

WHEREAS, to keep investment flowing, the nation's telecommunications laws and regulations need to keep up with today's highly innovative marketplace; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NOBEL Women acknowledge that broadband innovations and investments are rapidly evolving and the government must implement the most appropriate regulatory policies to protect consumers; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by the 2013 Legislative Summit of the NOBEL Women, assembled in Atlanta, GA, June 21, 2013 that NOBEL Women urge national policymakers to implement a 21st century policy framework that encourages continued investment and innovation while addressing advanced technology issues such as privacy, cyber-security, and spectrum policy; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NOBEL Women send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, members of Congress, and State Legislatures and Regulatory agencies.

Submitted by:

Rep. Angela Williams (CO)

Adopted: 6/22/13