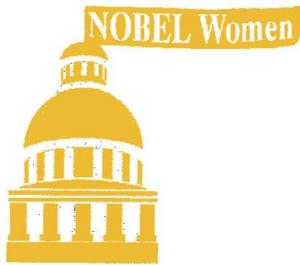


NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF BLACK ELECTED LEGISLATIVE WOMEN



Resolution on Spectrum Policy

WHEREAS, our country, and the world generally, are rapidly becoming dependent upon broadband technology; and

WHEREAS, high tech, broadband and telecom constitute 1/6 of the economy and produce over 70% of new jobs;¹ and

WHEREAS, in his 2010 State of the Union Address, President Obama established a national goal of broadband availability to 98% of the public by 2015;² and

WHEREAS, by stimulating investment in broadband infrastructure, the federal government can fulfill President Obama's goal and, by doing so, create the nation's largest public works project since the Interstate Highway System was built in the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, a growing cadre of minority owned contractors specialize in broadband system design, deployment, management, and retail sales, and will participate in infrastructure buildout of fiber and wireless. These companies will deliver sizeable infusions of capital to minority communities; and

WHEREAS, broadband infrastructure construction is the greatest producer of secure, good paying jobs in urban communities. National broadband infrastructure construction will engage hundreds of thousands of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled jobs doing everything from laying fiber in the ground, installing cell transmitters and satellite dishes, to securing permits, designing networks and maintaining construction equipment. People of color predominate in several broadband construction occupations; and

WHEREAS, African Americans are among the nation's leading broadband consumers. According to the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, African Americans are more likely than White Americans to go online to search for ideas for potential online businesses and information on jobs, religion, and government programs³; and

¹ Robert Shapiro & Aparna Mathur, The Contribution of Information and Communication Technologies To American Growth, Productivity, Jobs and Prosperity (Telecommunications Industry Alliance, Conducted by Sonecon) (2011), p. 4, available at http://www.tiaonline.org/gov_affairs/fcc_filings/documents/Report_on_ICT_and_Innovation_Shapiro_Mathur_September_8_2011.pdf (last visited May 6, 2012).

² President Obama Details Plan to Win the Future through Expanded Wireless Access | The White House The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/02/10/president-obama-details-plan-win-future-through-expanded-wireless-access> (last visited May 6, 2012).

³ See e.g., Jon P. Gant et al., National Minority Broadband Adoption: Comparative Trends in Adoption, Acceptance and Use, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies (Feb. 2010) at 20-21, available at http://www.jointcenter.org/sites/default/files/upload/research/files/MTI_BROADBAND_REPORT_WEB.pdf (last visited Apr. 5, 2012).

WHEREAS, according to the Pew Internet & American Life Project, sixty-four percent of African Americans have adopted wireless Internet, as compared to 57 percent of White Americans⁴; and

WHEREAS, according to Nielsen, minorities are adopting smartphones at a much higher rate than White Americans⁵; and

WHEREAS, as the demand for wireless broadband exponentially increases, the Federal Communications Commission has conservatively estimated that we will deplete our spectrum resources in the immediate future⁶; and

WHEREAS, increasing spectrum for mobile broadband service has become a critical issue because broadband is the economic engine of our increasingly digital society and wireless broadband has successfully set the foundation to bridge the racial digital divide⁷; and

WHEREAS, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women) recognizes the opportunity to use wireless to close the digital divide and create jobs and, therefore, that there should be more focus on efforts to expand the availability of spectrum for commercial wireless deployment and use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NOBEL Women believes that spectrum policy which ultimately encourages universal broadband deployment, adoption and informed use should be the nation's highest broadband priority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NOBEL Women urges the Obama Administration and the Federal Communications Commission to act promptly to implement reverse auctions for commercial wireless spectrum, including voluntary auctions for DTV spectrum, unencumbered by conditions that would constrain infrastructure construction and job creation.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that NOBEL Women will send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, Members of Congress, FCC Commissioners, and the Director of the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

⁴ See Aaron Smith, Mobile Access 2010, Pew Internet & American Life Project, pp. 8-9 (July 7, 2010), available at http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2010/PIP_Mobile_Access_2010.pdf (last visited Mar. 30, 2012).

⁵ See Don Kellogg, Among Mobile Phone Users, Hispanics, Asians are Most-Likely Smartphone Owners in the U.S., NielsenWire, available at <http://blog.nielsen.com/nielsenwire/?p=25901> (last visited Mar. 30, 2012). "As of December 2010, nearly a third (31%) of all mobile consumers in the United States owned smartphones... But smartphone penetration is even higher among mobile users who are part of ethnic and racial minorities in the U.S. – namely Asian/Pacific Islanders (45%), Hispanics (45%) and African-Americans (33%), populations that also tend to skew younger. Meanwhile, only 27 percent of White mobile users reported owning a smartphone." *Id.*

⁶ See FCC Staff Technical Paper, Mobile Broadband: The Benefits of Additional Spectrum, p.18 (Oct. 2010)

(“...mobile data demand will exceed available capacity by 2013, and will reach a nearly 300 MHz deficit by 2014.”)

⁷ Comments of the Civil Rights Organizations – NPB Public Notice #26: Spectrum Policy, In the Matter of A National Broadband Plan for Our Future, GN Docket No. 09-51 et al. (Dec. 22, 2009).

SPONSOR: Senator Arthenia Joyner (FL)

Ratified: June 22, 2012

Ratification is certified by: Senator Sharon Weston Broome (LA), President