



Resolution Supporting Digital Empowerment Agenda

Committee: Telecommunications

Resolution: TEL-17-01

1. **WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai has
2. launched a digital empowerment agenda that focuses on ensuring that all Americans are
3. presented with online opportunities through Gigabit Opportunity Zones, mobile
4. broadband deployment in rural America, removal of regulatory barriers to broadband
5. deployment and the promotion of entrepreneurship and innovation¹; and
6. **WHEREAS**, Gigabit Opportunity Zones would expand broadband access to remote and
7. low-income areas where the average household income falls below 75% of the national
8. median, spur local governments to streamline regulations, provide tax incentives to
9. hasten private-sector gigabit broadband deployment, and incentivize entrepreneurs to
10. create jobs in these zones through a tax credit; and
11. **WHEREAS**, Chairman Pai’s mobile broadband plan for rural America would adopt
12. build-out obligations for wireless carriers to cover more rural Americans and incentivize
13. rural broadband investment, implement Phase II of a Mobile Fund and supplement
14. existing funding sources from spectrum auctions for the deployment of mobile broadband
15. in rural America; and
16. **WHEREAS**, Chairman Pai proposes a streamlined approach to broadband deployment
17. which aligns with NOBEL Women’s 2016 ratified resolution, “Encouraging the Support

¹ https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-341210A1.pdf

18. of Infrastructure Buildout to Pave the Way for Next Generation Networks”²; and

19. **WHEREAS**, Chairman Pai encourages government at all levels to foster innovative

20. Internet-based services and products that benefit consumers by refraining from using old

21. regulatory frameworks and encourages government to promote entrepreneurs’ access to

22. capital through crowdfunding, tax credits, and long-term capital gains exemptions; and

23. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Organization of Black Elected

24. Legislative (NOBEL) Women supports Chairman’s Pai’s Digital Empowerment Agenda

25. which can help bridge the digital divide, strengthen rural communities, and bolster

26. America’s economy; and

27. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the

28. President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the

29. United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, the Chairman and

30. Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission, and other federal, state and

31. local government officials as appropriate.

Introduced by: Rep. Laura Hall (AL)

² <http://nobel-women.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Ratified-NOBEL-Women-2016-Resolutions.pdf>