



## PROMOTE CLEAN, SAFE RELIABLE WATER SERVICES

COMMITTEE: ENERGY (ENG)

RESOLUTION: ENE-17-02

1. **WHEREAS**, clean, safe, reliable water service is essential to the health and well being
2. of all Americans; and
3. **WHEREAS**, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative (NOBEL) Women
4. has a rich history of representing the interests of minority communities, low-income
5. families and the disadvantaged in the United States, especially when it comes to assuring
6. equitable and affordable access to essential services like water; and
7. **WHEREAS**, the events in Flint, Michigan, where thousands of mostly low-income
8. residents were poisoned by contaminated water, have drawn attention to the harmful
9. consequences of underinvestment in and slack oversight of water infrastructure; and
10. **WHEREAS**, lead contamination tends to disproportionately impact minority
11. communities, with studies having found a correlation between elevated lead poisoning
12. rates and cities with large African American populations; and
13. **WHEREAS**, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), U.S. water
14. infrastructure across the country is rapidly deteriorating, with a significant portion far
15. past its useful life; and
16. **WHEREAS**, the ASCE, which assigned the nation's drinking water infrastructure a
17. grade of 'D' in its most recent Infrastructure Report Card, estimates that \$1 trillion
18. in new investment is needed over the next 25 years to modernize this

19. infrastructure; and

20. **WHEREAS**, there are over 52,000 community water systems in the U.S., 84 percent

21. of which are owned by municipal or county governments; and

22. **WHEREAS**, many municipalities that provide water service to their residents lack

23. the financial and technical resources needed to effectively maintain their systems

24. and meet critical environmental and quality compliance requirements; and

25. **WHEREAS**, these interrelated issues, coupled with the financial struggles facing

26. many local governments across the country, have made it financially impractical for

27. some municipalities to continue maintaining primary oversight of their water

28. systems; and

29. **WHEREAS**, in some instances, the sale of a water system by a financially distressed

30. municipal government can relieve fiscal pressure, spur infrastructure investment,

31. and raise water quality; and

32. **WHEREAS**, working with private entities in this manner and via public-private

33. partnerships can also allow municipalities to benefit from economies of scale,

34. greater access to capital, and technical expertise; and

35. **WHEREAS**, the provision of water service by a private entity is subject to strict

36. public utility and environmental regulation;

37. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Organization of Black

38. Elected Legislative (NOBEL) Women reaffirms that clean, safe, reliable and

39. affordable water service is essential for our communities;

40. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the National Organization of Black Elected

41. Legislative (NOBEL) Women recognizes that increased investment in water
42. infrastructure and a greater focus on replacing remaining lead-based water
43. infrastructure is of critical importance to the public's health and safety;
44. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the National Organization of Black Elected
45. Legislative (NOBEL) Women calls on policymakers at every level to pursue policies
46. that prioritize the expeditious replacement of all remaining lead-based water
47. infrastructure in the United States;
48. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the National Organization of Black Elected
49. Legislative (NOBEL) Women supports and encourages municipalities and all other
50. providers of water service to pursue the full range of options for assuring that water
51. infrastructure is as safe, modern, and accessible as possible.

**Introduced by:** Sen. Valencia Seay (GA)