

SAMPLE RESOLUTION — Committing to the principles of a Blue Community

WHEREAS, [name of municipality] in [name of state] has a strong commitment to ensure equitable, universal access to safe water and sanitation to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents;

WHEREAS, continued public ownership, operation and management of the drinking water and wastewater systems are the most responsible way for [name of municipality] to ensure that every resident has access to safe and affordable drinking water and wastewater service;

WHEREAS, privatization of the water and sewer systems through an asset sale, lease or public-private partnership would result in loss of public accountability and transparency of this essential public service, often leading to problems including rate hikes, deteriorated customer service quality or environmental degradation through sewage spills;

WHEREAS, according to a survey of the 500 largest community water systems in the United States, on average, investor-owned utilities charged households 59 percent more than local governments charged for drinking water service;

WHEREAS, [name of municipality] owns, operates and manages a sophisticated water utility that meets or exceeds all federal and state water quality regulations, some of the most stringent requirements in the world;

WHEREAS, the regulatory requirements for monitoring water quality of bottled water are not as stringent as those that must be met by [name of municipality]'s community water system;

WHEREAS, single use bottled water can be thousands as time as expensive as tap water in [name of municipality], and in 2016, 4 billion pounds of plastic were used in U.S. bottled water production, requiring an estimated energy input equivalent of 64 million barrels of oil;

WHEREAS, federal funding for water infrastructure fell 77 percent between 1977 to 2017 in real dollars, and based on estimates from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, drinking water and wastewater systems need more than \$35 billion a year to meet existing federal standards;

WHEREAS, the Water Affordability, Transparency, Equity and Reliability (WATER) Act in Congress dedicates \$35 billion a year in federal funding to improve drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, including removing lead pipes in homes and schools, expanding assistance to disadvantaged communities, and helping improve rural household wells and septic systems;

WHEREAS, protection of [name of municipality]'s water is best accomplished by prevention of contamination and environmental degradation in the first place;

WHEREAS, fracking is a destructive process that corporations use to extract oil and natural gas from rock formations deep underground, and the entire fracking process — from drilling a well

to dealing with the resulting toxic waste — endangers our water and the health of our communities;

WHEREAS, factory farms — large concentrated animal feeding operations — produce enormous volumes of waste, pollute the air and water, exploit workers, harm animal welfare, fuel antibiotic resistance and climate change, and harm the rural communities they claim to benefit; and pollution from large scale agriculture threatens over 13,000 miles of rivers and streams and over 60,000 acres of lakes and ponds;

AND WHEREAS, the Farm System Reform Act in Congress would place an immediate moratorium on the construction of new or expansions of factory farms with a phaseout of existing large facilities by 2040.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT [name of municipality] in [name of state] commits to the principles of becoming a Blue Community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT [name of municipality] recognizes and affirms that water and sanitation are fundamental human rights and that water is a common resource to be held in public trust;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT [name of municipality] will retain public ownership, financing, operation and management of its drinking water and wastewater systems and will oppose all attempts to privatize these essential services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT [name of municipality] will no longer purchase and provide single use bottled water at municipal meetings and events where access to safe tap water exists;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that [name of municipality] calls on Congress to pass the WATER Act to address the growing need to improve public water and wastewater infrastructure across the country;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that (name of municipality) supports a national ban on fracking to protect water resources from fracking;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that [name of municipality] calls on Congress to pass the Farm System Reform Act to put a moratorium on factory farms;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that [name of municipality] will send a letter to our U.S. Senators and U.S. Congressional Representative(s) urging them to support the WATER Act, a ban on fracking, and the Farm System Reform Act.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND EFFECTIVE on this ____ day of _____, 20__.

ATTEST:

Mayor

Council President

PLEASE SEND A COPY OF THIS SIGNED RESOLUTION TO:

1. [U.S. Congressional Representative]
2. [U.S. Senators]
3. [Governor]
4. [Food & Water Watch]