

## Resolution on Moving Green Energy Across America

**WHEREAS**, the United States is fortunate to have abundant natural resources of wind and sunshine, which are increasingly being harnessed as integral sources of renewable energy; and

**WHEREAS**, wind turbines and solar arrays are not always situated in the high-population areas that consume the most energy, precipitating the need for long-distance, high voltage electricity transmission lines. The United States is constrained by a lack of transmission infrastructure, as meaningful upgrades that create a strong grid have not been made in the past 50 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States cannot meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals without modernizing its electrical grid and building additional transmission lines to deliver zero carbon hydro-, wind- and solar-generated electricity from rural areas to population centers; and

**WHEREAS**, a nationwide assessment found that nationally, \$30-90 billion of incremental transmission investments will be necessary in the U.S. by 2030 to meet the changing needs of the system due to electrification, with an additional \$200-600 billion needed from 2030 to 2050. These investments will be in addition to the investments needed to maintain the existing transmission system and integrate renewable generation built to meet existing load.”<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, grid infrastructure projects are extremely long-lived assets that will generate tax benefits for the public for more than 50 years. They additionally enable increased private investments in power generation by connecting producers to markets; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the best ways to promote rural economic development is to build the delivery capacity to move rural energy to market. Electric transmission lines have enabled job growth, preservation of rural communities and a growing tax base across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, transmission is generally privately financed, and Congress has provided support to private developers investing in assets that are highly valuable to the country through tax investment incentives. Such an investment tax credit would encourage private investment and lead to increased government revenues from taxes on additional income and profits generated; and

**WHEREAS**, the construction of high voltage transmission lines are planned and paid for by customers through a regulatory process. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission could facilitate the development of inter-regional transmission planning

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<sup>1</sup> The Coming Electrification of the North American Economy, Brattle Group, March 2019

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36 practices for the approval of broadly beneficial projects, as these lines are subject to  
37 multiple, inconsistent evaluations at the regional level; and

38 **WHEREAS**, the construction of transmission lines critical to delivering electricity to  
39 population centers across state boundaries has been stymied by a state-versus-state  
40 permitting process in which one state's refusal to approve can halt critical projects.

41 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party  
42 encourages our Congressional legislators to prioritize, support, and promote polices  
43 and regulations that would prioritize the permitting and construction of transmission  
44 lines in the national interest of reduced carbon energy, security, job creation and  
45 economic development.