

**NCSL STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY
& ENVIRONMENT
POLICY DIRECTIVES AND RESOLUTIONS**

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1 **COMMITTEE: NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

2 **POLICY: CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE**

3 **TYPE: EXISTING RESOLUTION**

4 **WHEREAS**, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) affects cervids such as deer, elk, and
5 moose and has been detected in at least 29 states, according to the Center for Disease
6 Control's (CDC) March 2023 survey; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the states currently grappling with CWD are incurring significant costs to
8 respond to the disease, often requiring the wildlife management agencies and research
9 universities to divert limited resources from other vital activities; and

10 **WHEREAS**, these diseases create great suffering and death of wildlife and threaten to
11 infect more animals and impact ecosystems and economies; and

12 **WHEREAS**, recent research indicates CWD may be spread by ticks, and has the
13 potential to jump into human populations; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the CDC recommends not eating CWD infected deer; and

15 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State
16 Legislatures urges Congress to provide states with additional flexible federal funds for
17 research and response to emerging wildlife diseases, in order to effectively address this
18 multi-state wildlife disease crisis and enable states to assure their wildlife populations
19 are healthy. These funds must be provided without federal mandates on state wildlife
20 management; and

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures supports
22 National Institutes of Health funding to examine human health impacts from CWD.

1 **COMMITTEE: NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

2 **POLICY: GROWING OUTDOOR RECREATION ON PUBLIC**
3 **LANDS**

4 **TYPE: EXISTING RESOLUTION WITH COMMITTEE**
5 **AMENDMENTS**

6 **WHEREAS**, America’s public lands and waters comprise approximately 600 million
7 acres managed by federal, state and local entities; ~~and-~~

8 **WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Economic
9 Analysis (BEA), outdoor recreation generated \$1.~~24~~ trillion in economic output and
10 accounted for 2.~~32~~% of U.S. gross domestic product in 202~~32~~; ~~and-~~

11 **WHEREAS**, BEA also found that outdoor recreation generated five million jobs across
12 the country and accounted for 3.~~12~~% of all U.S. employees in the same time period;
13 ~~and-~~

14 **WHEREAS**, regular outdoor recreation is associated with economic growth, positive
15 health outcomes, and better quality of life, and many outdoor recreation businesses are
16 small, locally owned and operated businesses that are the cornerstones of rural
17 communities; ~~and~~

18 **WHEREAS**, it is important that the federal government, in partnership with state and
19 local governments, ensure that access to outdoor recreation is available to all
20 Americans for generations to come; ~~and-~~

21 **WHEREAS**, the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE)
22 Act ~~is a bipartisan legislative package in the U.S. Senate that~~ combined~~s~~ several
23 existing bills—including the Recreation Not Red Tape Act and Simplifying Outdoor
24 Access for Recreation Act—with new concepts such as improved broadband
25 connectivity at developed recreation sites, online collection of recreation fees, federal
26 collaboration with state, local and Tribal governments in identifying and assessing
27 housing, municipal infrastructure and other needs of gateway communities to expand
28 visitation to federal lands and waters; ~~and~~

29 **WHEREAS, ~~the~~ EXPLORE Act ~~has already passed unanimously out of the Senate~~
30 ~~Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and has already passed the House of~~
31 ~~Representatives~~ passed both chambers of Congress unanimously; and-**

32 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the National Conference of State
33 Legislatures urges members of Congress and the president of the United States to ~~act~~
34 ~~to pass and sign into law the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences~~
35 ~~Act; and~~ work with states to effectively implement theirs provisions of the EXPLORE Act.

1 **COMMITTEE: NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

2 **POLICY: MICROPLASTICS RESEARCH**

3 **TYPE: EXISTING RESOLUTION**

4 A resolution of the National Conference of State Legislatures, urging the federal
5 government to fund research on microplastics in the environment.

6 **WHEREAS**, microplastics are pieces of plastic that are less than five millimeters in size
7 which can result from the disposal and breakdown of products and industrial waste
8 containing plastics; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the majority of plastics in the United States are not recycled; and

10 **WHEREAS**, recent studies have shown that microplastics are pervasive in the
11 environment; and

12 **WHEREAS**, microplastics are easily ingested by plankton and filter feeding animals and
13 are found in many species of wildlife including fish and shellfish; and

14 **WHEREAS**, microplastics have been found in bottled water and other consumer
15 products intended for human consumption; and

16 **WHEREAS**, microplastics have been found in human stools; and

17 **WHEREAS**, scientists still know little about the effects of microplastics on the human
18 body or on wildlife; and

19 **WHEREAS**, water resources, including drinking water, and soils and sediments are
20 rarely tested or monitored for microplastics; and

21 **WHEREAS**, questions still remain as to the sources of microplastics in the environment,
22 including the contributions from wastewater treatment facilities; and

23 **WHEREAS**, research is needed to understand the impacts of microplastics on the
24 environment and human health and to develop testing and monitoring protocols.

25 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the National Conference of State
26 Legislatures that it urges to the United State Environmental Protection Agency to
27 increase research efforts on microplastics.

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the U.S. Attorney
29 General, to the President of the United States, and all members of Congress.

1 **COMMITTEE: NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

2 **POLICY: RECOVERING AMERICA'S WILDLIFE**

3 **TYPE: EXISTING RESOLUTION**

4 **WHEREAS**, habitat loss, wildlife diseases, invasive species, pollution, and the impacts
5 of climate change pose significant threats to fish and wildlife species; and

6 **WHEREAS**, over 1,600 United States' native species are federally protected under the
7 Endangered Species Act and estimates suggest one in five native species is at risk of
8 extinction; and

9 **WHEREAS**, State Wildlife Action Plans have identified nearly 12,000 Species of
10 Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), including federal and state endangered and
11 threatened species and other rare and at-risk fish and wildlife species; and

12 **WHEREAS**, current funding is far below what is necessary to conserve the species
13 most at-risk; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife
15 Resources recommended that up to \$1.3 billion a year of existing revenue from energy
16 and mineral resources development on federal lands and waters be redirected to the
17 Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act would provide the additional funding,
19 providing state wildlife agencies the money necessary to accelerate implementation of
20 State Wildlife Action Plans; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the additional funding will help states to address at-risk wildlife before they
22 require protection under the federal Endangered Species Act which can be more costly
23 and disruptive.

24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State
25 Legislators urges the President of the United States and Members of Congress to act to
26 pass and sign into law the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, and

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted
28 to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the
29 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress.

1 **COMMITTEE: LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND NATURAL**
2 **RESOURCES, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

3 **POLICY: NATURAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

4 **TYPE: NEW RESOLUTION (SEN. KATIE FRY HESTER AND**
5 **SEN. LARRY LUICK)**

6 **WHEREAS**, natural disasters impacting the United States, including hurricanes, storms,
7 flooding, tornados, fires, wind, hail and extreme heat, are more severe, occurring more
8 frequently, and at greater scale. According to the Federal Emergency Management
9 Agency (FEMA), 44 of 50 states experienced a federal disaster declaration somewhere
10 in their state in 2024; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Center for
12 Environmental Information has identified 73 natural disasters, largely comprised of
13 severe storms, tropical cyclones and winter storm events, between 2022 and 2024 with
14 individual losses of over \$1 billion adjusted for inflation. Five-year average costs have
15 spiked to \$151.2 billion in 2024 from \$19.1 billion in 1984, meaning states and local
16 communities rely on federal assistance before, during and after disasters now more
17 than ever; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in 2020 the National Institute of Building Sciences evaluated federal
19 investments in disaster mitigation since 1995 and found that for every \$1 federal
20 invested, communities saved \$13; and

21 **WHEREAS**, state and local governments own approximately 44% of public roads, 38%
22 of national bridges, over 900 hospitals and directly support about a third of the nation’s
23 airports. States are constantly working to improve disaster response and recovery
24 systems and technology and federal funding and technical assistance enhances state
25 investments in pre-disaster resiliency, disaster mitigation and preparedness and
26 supports the rapid repair and replacement of damaged and destroyed infrastructure and
27 quicker economic recovery; and

28 **WHEREAS**, given the severity of natural disasters in recent years, federal support to
29 state activities and existing state funding mechanisms is vital to repairing damaged
30 communities; and

31 **WHEREAS**, the majority of federal disaster funding is distributed to states through
32 FEMA, which has obligated over \$160 billion in funding since 2017 as a result non-
33 Covid-19 disaster declarations; and

34 **WHEREAS**, the primary role of the Federal Emergency Management Agency relied
35 upon by the states is leading interagency coordination before, during, and after
36 multijurisdictional disasters as a full-service federal partner; and

37 **WHEREAS**, state and local governments already have a 25% cost share with awarded
38 FEMA funds unless specifically adjusted by the president. The majority of states lack
39 sufficient funding, capacity and need for a full-time disaster-response staff, and are
40 unable to replace federal disaster-response infrastructure and expertise; and

41 **WHEREAS**, federal assistance to states which provides and supports the delivery of
42 basic services such as clean water, food and shelter to communities post-disaster is a
43 necessity; and

44 **WHEREAS**, the dissolution of federal agencies addressing disasters and assistance for
45 disaster preparedness, mitigation, resilience, response and recovery would result in the
46 loss of a centralized federal research and innovation hub for new resiliency techniques
47 and improved methods for protecting lives and property during emerging and
48 increasingly worsening disaster threats, an increase in direct cost burdens on states by
49 requiring states to spend more money on routine items and would adversely impact
50 investments in other areas and a decrease in national security during times of crisis;
51 and

52 **WHEREAS**, intergovernmental communications, ongoing federal-state partnerships and
53 long-term staff relationships are vital to effective coordination and disaster
54 preparedness and response; and

55 **WHEREAS**, according to the Congressional Budget Office, insurers covered \$80 billion
56 in losses caused by natural disasters in 2023 and some insurers were rendered
57 insolvent due to the impacts of and the resulting claims after natural disasters. Other
58 insurance companies are reducing coverage and are pulling out of states like California
59 and Florida – both of which experienced catastrophic disasters in recent years; and

60 **WHEREAS**, given the interconnectedness of the global economy, vulnerable supply
61 chains and regionalized American industry, it is in America’s best economic interest to
62 ensure expedient services and relief to states after disasters to assist with speedy local,
63 regional and national economic recovery; and

64 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures
65 urges Congress and the administration to maintain and sustain the role, scope and
66 adequate and appropriate funding levels of all federal disaster agencies, programs,
67 grants and projects, such as the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
68 (BRIC) grant program, that assist states with disaster preparedness, mitigation,
69 resilience, response and recovery and to reject any changes to federal agencies,
70 programs, grants or projects that would disrupt or decrease federal disaster assistance
71 funding currently provided to states, create direct or indirect cost burden shifts to states,
72 or create any new direct or indirect spending or other precondition requirements,
73 including the implementation of a so called “disaster deductible,” for states to access
74 federal funding for disaster preparedness, mitigation, resilience, response or recovery;
75 and

76 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures
77 urges Congress and the Administration to maintain a consistent schedule for disaster
78 relief grant cycles to ensure states can adequately make informed planning and budget
79 decisions without undue uncertainty; and

80 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures calls
81 on Congress, the administration and relevant federal agencies to ensure that federal
82 funding intended for shelter after disaster be continued s, and ensure that the shelter
83 and services issued meet the needs of all Americans, both urban and rural; and

84 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures
85 urges Congress, the administration and relevant federal agencies to support the
86 principles of state-to-state mutual aid and resource sharing as agreed to by the
87 signatory states and territories of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact
88 (EMAC) by continuing EMAC program funding, in addition too, rather than as a
89 replacement of, federal financial and technical support and assistance; and

90 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures calls
91 on Congress, the administration and relevant federal agencies to enhance
92 intergovernmental partnerships; increase in-person assistance to states, including
93 communication and coordination assistance and other on the ground support before,
94 after, and during disaster response and recovery to better serve the needs of the
95 American public; and bolster clear and accurate communications with all relevant
96 stakeholders including state and local entities as well as the public about state and
97 federal disaster preparation, response and recovery efforts, before, during and after
98 disasters; and

99 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures calls
100 on Congress, the administration and relevant federal agencies to maintain federal
101 disaster resources for the public, including information to assist the public with
102 preparedness and response, scientific databases and federal data tracking and
103 collection programs; and

104 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures
105 supports efforts by the federal government to improve community preparedness prior to
106 disaster, including the federal government's assistance with and facilitation of broad
107 preventative actions that could be conducted across the nation, such as contracting for
108 shelter in preparation for future disasters; and

109 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures calls
110 on Congress, the administration and relevant federal agencies to provide financial and
111 technical support for state resource sharing programs and disaster response systems
112 and software; and

113 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures
114 supports efforts by the federal government, in consultation with states, to improve,
115 streamline, simplify, and increase the consistency, flexibility and transparency of federal
116 disaster funding applications and distribution processes to states, who are responsible
117 managers of federal dollars, to more quickly assist with disaster response and recovery;
118 and

119 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures
120 supports changes to the National Flood Insurance Program to ensure its solvency while
121 also maintaining its affordability and availability to all Americans.

1 **COMMITTEE: NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

2 **POLICY: BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS**

3 **TYPE: NEW RESOLUTION (REP. RICK HANSEN AND SEN.**
4 **ANNETTE SWEENEY)**

5 **WHEREAS**, the USDA generally defines “beginning farmer or rancher” as an individual
6 who, “has not operated a farm or a ranch” or “has operated a farm or ranch for not more
7 than 10 years” or “meets such other criteria as the Secretary of Agriculture may
8 establish”; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the USDA’s National Agriculture Statistic’s Service Ag Census data has
10 found that approximately one third of all American farmers are 65 or older; and

11 **WHEREAS**, there is increasing risk and uncertainty in the agriculture industry due to the
12 significant negative impacts of natural disasters on production, threats from domestic
13 and foreign animal diseases, supply chain challenges, ongoing net agriculture trade
14 losses and current uncertainty around tariffs and international trade; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the impacts of natural disasters, including flooding, hail, drought and
16 wildfire, cost agriculture producers an estimated \$20 billion in 2024, making it
17 increasingly difficult for agriculture producers, especially beginning farmers and
18 ranchers to sustain their operations; and

19 **WHEREAS**, agriculture has high input costs and beginning farmers and ranchers need
20 significant capital and resources to rent or acquire the land, equipment and the other
21 items necessary to start their business and maintain vital profitability and sustainability
22 during the first ten years of operation; and

23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures
24 calls on Congress, the administration and relevant federal agencies to continue to
25 support the development of the next generation of the agriculture workforce by
26 administering federal support programs and providing grants, loans, insurance,
27 technical assistance and training to all Americans seeking to work in agriculture or
28 become a farmer, forester or rancher; and

29 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures calls
30 on Congress, the administration and relevant federal agencies to continue to support
31 state level tax incentives, programs, grants and projects that support or administer
32 support to beginning farmers and ranchers and to reject any changes to federal
33 agencies, programs, grants or projects that would negatively impact how states receive
34 and administer federal assistance; and

35 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures calls
36 on Congress to regularly enact new farm bill legislation every five years, ensuring the
37 timely renewal of federal support for America’s beginning farmers and ranchers; and

38 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures calls
39 on Congress, the administration, and relevant federal agencies to support agriculture
40 producers, especially beginning farmers and ranchers, recovering from the devastating
41 impacts of natural disasters.

1 **COMMITTEE: NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

2 **POLICY: ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSES AND SOLAR FLARES**

3 **TYPE: NEW RESOLUTION (REP. DOUG THOMAS)**

4 **WHEREAS**, protecting the nation's electric power grid and ensuring a reliable and
5 affordable supply of energy are key priorities for the electric power sector and state and
6 federal governments; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the power grid is a complex, interconnected network of generation,
8 transmission, distribution, control, and communication technologies that can be
9 impacted by natural events-including weather, earthquakes and geomagnetic
10 disturbances (GMDs) like those caused by solar flares-and by malicious events, like
11 cyber or physical attacks including electromagnetic pulses (EMPs); and

12 **WHEREAS**, the electric and nuclear sectors are critical infrastructure providers with
13 mandatory and enforceable standards to help protect the reliability and security of the
14 power and grid assets they own and operate; and

15 **WHEREAS**, standards can ensure that every electric utility meets a baseline level of
16 security and the electric industry also relies on close coordination and partnerships with
17 federal law enforcement and security agencies to help defend against hostile nation-
18 states or other attacks against the United States, including EMP threats from a nuclear
19 device; and

20 **WHEREAS**, intentional, manmade EMPs, such as those from directed energy weapons
21 or high-altitude nuclear blasts, and naturally occurring GMDs, such as those caused by
22 solar flares, need to be assessed and addressed with appropriate mitigation and
23 protection strategies implemented for each; and

24 **WHEREAS**, preventing an EMP event is a national security issue, as the planning and
25 launching of a nuclear attack on U.S. critical infrastructure constitutes an act of war or
26 terrorism, thus the federal government is primarily responsible for preventing a high-
27 altitude EMP as a matter of national security; and

28 **WHEREAS**, reasonably cost-effective technological solutions are emerging to protect
29 from EMP threats that could be implemented in phases, starting with the greatest risks
30 first; and

31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State
32 Legislatures urges members of Congress and the President of the United States to
33 initiate and coordinate efforts with state governments and the electric power sector to
34 implement plans and preparation for the protection of electric power generation,
35 transmission and distribution assets from EMPs and geomagnetic disturbances (solar
36 flares); first addressing those sectors most vulnerable and with the longest lead times
37 for repair, and then by using a risk based assessment approach to harden the
38 remainder of nation's electric production, transmission and distribution systems for
39 resilience against, and recovery from, all types of malicious or naturally occurring events
40 that could adversely impact the electric power grid.

41

1 **COMMITTEE: NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

2 **POLICY: FORESTRY**

3 **TYPE: NEW RESOLUTION (REP. RICK HANSEN AND SEN.**
4 **ANNETTE SWEENEY)**

5 **WHEREAS**, in the United States 800 million acres, approximately one third of its land
6 mass, is covered in forests and of that acreage, Federal and state and local
7 governments, owned and managed approximately 238.4 million and 82.7 million acres
8 respectively as of 2012; and

9 **WHEREAS**, direct federal forest management responsibilities are carried out by the
10 U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the
11 U.S. National Park Service and the Department of Defense across 43 states and the
12 territory of Puerto Rico; and

13 **WHEREAS**, federal agencies provide several vital programs, technical expertise and
14 funding to help with nationwide forest management and local and regional issues; and

15 **WHEREAS**, federal, state and local government and private forests can be used for
16 production, conservation and recreation, outdoor recreation in federal forests contribute
17 at least to \$13 billion to the American economy annually and in 2012 approximately
18 67% of U.S. forests predominantly focused on production; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the forest-based economy exists in every U.S. state and generates more
20 than \$280 billion worth of forest products annually in the U.S.; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the stability of American forestry currently faces numerous threats including
22 development, droughts, wildfire, extreme weather events, outbreaks of disease and
23 invasive species and pests, which the Forest Service has indicated could lead to net
24 forest loss; and

25 **WHEREAS**, invasive species, such as certain bark beetles, emerald ash borers, spotted
26 lanternflies and many others have had devastating impacts on certain domestic tree
27 species and have been detrimental to American forest health more broadly; and

28 **WHEREAS**, threats to the forestry industry from natural disaster are rising, the
29 Congressional Research Service found that in fiscal year 2022, 63 million acres of
30 national forest system lands had a high or very high wildfire hazard potential and in
31 2024 there were over 35 individual fires that burned over 40,000 acres; and

32 **WHEREAS**, the National Interagency Coordination Center Wildland Fire Summary and
33 Statistics 2024 Annual Report found that there were 64,897 wildfires reported across
34 the United States in 2024, and they destroyed more than 4,500 structures and damaged
35 8,924,884 acres. These occurrences are statistically higher than the five- and ten-year
36 averages; and

37 **WHEREAS**, as the threat of wildfires increases, so does the need for increased federal
38 preparedness and response as wildfires do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries, in
39 2024 only one in five wildfires were on federally protected lands; and

40 **WHEREAS**, many states, including Western, Great Lakes and Appalachian areas, are
41 comprised of significant tracts of federal land and should not be held solely responsible
42 for wildfire preparedness and response; and

43 **WHEREAS**, several states have already taken and continue to take action to respond to
44 the threat of wildfires, by increasing funding for forest management, creating or
45 increasing state wildfire funds, joining inter-state wildfire fighting compacts and
46 improving state firefighting workforces and equipment fleets; and

47 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures
48 urges Congress and the administration to maintain and sustain the role, scope and
49 adequate and appropriate funding and staffing levels of all federal forestry and wildfire
50 agencies, programs, grants, technical assistance and projects that assist states and
51 landowners with forestry, forestry management, timber production, reforestation and
52 wildfire preparedness, mitigation, resilience, response and recovery and to reject any
53 changes to federal agencies, programs, grants, technical assistance or projects that
54 would negatively impact how states conduct forestry management or receive federal
55 wildfire assistance; and

56 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, as state forestry agencies are the primary delivery
57 system for forest management activities nationwide, the National Conference of State
58 Legislatures opposes any federal action, activity or unwarranted preemption that would
59 undermine or usurp state forest management roles, responsibilities or regulatory
60 authority; and

61 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures calls
62 on Congress, the administration and relevant federal agencies to support and
63 encourage sustainable forestry practices, conduct forestry research, support industry
64 innovation and development, make wildfire reduction practices more economically
65 feasible and keep forestland working forestland; and

66 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures calls
67 on Congress, to regularly enact new farm bill legislation every five years, to ensure the
68 timely renewal of federal support for American foresters and forestry.

1 **COMMITTEE: NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

2 **POLICY: PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES**
3 **(PFAS)**

4 **TYPE: NEW RESOLUTION (SEN. KATIE FRY HESTER AND**
5 **SEN. LARRY LUICK)**

6 **WHEREAS**, Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a class of over 15,000
7 synthetic chemicals that are resistant to heat, water and oil. PFAS have been defined by
8 over 20 states as a class of fluorinated chemicals containing at least one fully
9 fluorinated carbon atom. Perfluorooctanoic Acid, also known as PFOA, and
10 Perfluorooctane sulfonate, also known as PFOS, are a subset of PFAS chemicals; and

11 **WHEREAS**, PFAS are sometimes referred to as “forever chemicals” because they
12 break down very slowly and thus can build up in soil, water and air over time; and

13 **WHEREAS**, PFAS have been and continue to be widely used in modern manufacturing
14 since the mid-twentieth century and they can be found in a multitude of consumer,
15 commercial and industrial products; and

16 **WHEREAS**, humans and the environment can be exposed to PFAS via multiple
17 sources, including but not limited to industrial products, personal care products,
18 cleaning products, clothing, furniture, appliances, electronics, food packaging, in low
19 levels in certain food products intended for human consumption, water, biosolids and
20 more; and

21 **WHEREAS**, according to EPA research, PFAS have been found in human and animal
22 blood throughout the country, additionally a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
23 report found PFAS in the blood of 97% of Americans; and

24 **WHEREAS**, scientific studies have identified links between exposure to PFAS
25 chemicals and harmful health impacts in humans and animals; but scientific
26 understanding of PFAS impacts on human and animal health remains limited; and

27 **WHEREAS**, public awareness about PFAS and concern around exposure sources and
28 unknown human and environmental impacts has been rising; and

29 **WHEREAS**, thirty states have adopted over 100 policies to address PFAS and PFAS
30 contamination; and

31 **WHEREAS**, the EPA finalized the first federal National Primary Drinking Water
32 Regulation for six PFAS or mixtures in April 2024, setting legally enforceable maximum
33 contaminant levels for drinking water; and

34 **WHEREAS**, current federal funding is likely insufficient to address the total remediation
35 and clean-up of PFAS in drinking water and does not address PFAS remediation and
36 clean-up in other sectors; and

37 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, current federal action on PFAS prevention
38 and funding is likely insufficient to address the total remediation and clean-up of PFAS
39 in drinking water and does not address PFAS remediation and clean-up in other
40 sectors; and

41 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures
42 urges Congress, the administration and relevant federal agencies to identify, study, test,
43 and remediate PFAS, including but not limited to drinking water and the domestic food
44 supply; and

45 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures calls
46 for Congress, the administration and relevant federal agencies to make all federal PFAS
47 and PFAS response legislative and regulatory standards the floor and not the ceiling,
48 and allow states to enact additional PFAS restrictions and regulations within their
49 jurisdictions as deemed appropriate by state legislative and executive branches; and

50 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures
51 urges Congress, the administration and relevant federal agencies to engage in state-
52 federal intergovernmental communication, collaboration and coordination on PFAS and
53 PFAS response, as well as to consult with states prior to implementing federal PFAS or
54 PFAS response legislative or regulatory standards, including but not limited to proposed
55 PFAS exposure limits or clean up requirements and the National Conference of State
56 Legislatures strongly opposes any such federal legislation or regulation that enacts
57 unfunded or burdensome mandates on states; and

58 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures
59 urges Congress, the administration and relevant federal agencies to provide appropriate
60 funding, resources and technical expertise to states and territories to help with state-
61 level PFAS response capacity building, as well as assistance with PFAS studies,
62 prevention, transition to safer alternatives, source identification, treatment, mitigation,
63 remediation, clean-up removal and disposal in all areas of contamination, including but
64 not limited to drinking water and the domestic food supply; and

65 **LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the National Conference of State Legislatures
66 supports continued clear and accurate communications about federal PFAS findings.

1 **COMMITTEE: NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

2 **POLICY: DATA CENTER IMPACTS ON POWER GENERATION**
3 **AND GRID RESILIENCY**

4 **TYPE: NEW RESOLUTION (SEN. KATIE FRY HESTER AND**
5 **SEN. LARRY LUICK)**

6 **WHEREAS**, the increasing digitization of everyday life and technological innovations
7 such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, cryptocurrency mining and more are
8 driving the construction of large-scale data centers.

9 **WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Department of Energy and the Electric Power
10 Research Institute, total energy demand in the U.S. is expected to spike in coming
11 years, potentially increasing 15-20 percent in the next decade. Data centers could use 9
12 percent of all electricity generated in the country by 2030, up from 4 percent in 2023.

13 **WHEREAS**, existing and new data centers increase pressures on an overburdened and
14 aging power grid that requires large investments in new and existing infrastructure, as
15 well as significant permitting reform.

16 **WHEREAS**, the increased demand for power caused by data centers can significantly
17 raise costs for rate payers and cause serious concerns about cost sharing among
18 residential users, small businesses and large companies, especially when companies
19 negotiate for “behind the meter” access to power.

20 **WHEREAS**, data centers generate significant sustainability and community concerns,
21 including vast water consumption, greenhouse gas and heat emissions, noise pollution,
22 and electronic waste.

23 **WHEREAS**, these large-scale building projects come with siting concerns, especially
24 around grid connection and facility accessibility in areas that lack existing power or
25 service infrastructure to support large facilities.

26 **WHEREAS**, many states share security concerns regarding companies owned by
27 adversarial countries (as defined by the Department of Homeland Security) using

28 domestic data centers, building their own data centers and connecting them to the
29 existing domestic power grid.

30 **WHEREAS**, cooperation and coordination by states and regions is necessary to create
31 cohesive and integrated systems and prevent interstate conflicts over cost burdens,
32 power supply and transmission.

33 **WHEREAS**, data centers can provide significant economic development for regions
34 through growth of local property tax bases, job creation during and after construction
35 and attraction of other high-tech businesses due to proximity to data centers.

36 **NOW BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Conference of State Legislatures urges
37 Congress and the administration to take the following actions with input and
38 consultation from the states or their national associations to help states address this
39 rapidly growing issue:

- 40 1. Include state policy makers in all stakeholder discussions regarding data center
41 placement and energy usage and refrain from pre-empting states on siting,
42 permitting, taxation and other regulatory issues relating to the construction and
43 operation of data centers.
- 44 2. Recognize and mitigate the impact of data centers on rate payers and
45 communities, as well as protect local consumers' need for power when
46 disruptions limit the amount of available power.
- 47 3. Develop incentives and/or implement requirements for data centers regarding
48 onsite generation of power at new data center projects.
- 49 4. Require utility operators to file documentation related to data centers with
50 appropriate state and federal regulatory agencies that detail terms and conditions
51 of service and associated prices to facilitate transparency and protect rate
52 payers.
- 53 5. In cooperation with states and localities, encourage regional planning for power
54 generation, including building national infrastructure in a way that makes sense
55 for states and localities, nuclear power generation and valuing the grid as a

56 national asset. This approach could disincentivize states from engaging in undue
57 and damaging competition.

58 6. Expand oversight of the process by which large customers—such as large data
59 centers or manufacturing plants—obtain power while protecting smaller
60 consumers equitable access to power and other limited resources.

61 7. In consultation with states and their national associations, establish guidance and
62 oversight of sustainability practices, including reducing emissions, mitigating
63 onsite water consumption, reducing noise pollution and other community
64 concerns.

65 8. Provide funding and resources to states to help data centers optimize operations
66 through power management, workload optimization and other innovations.

67 9. Require data centers to regularly report to the appropriate local, state and federal
68 agencies on their electricity and water usage to ensure transparency and
69 facilitate equity in costs.

70 10. Work with states to create cost allocation methods that help ensure large-scale
71 energy users are paying their fair share of costs using the “cost causation” and
72 “beneficiary pays” principles.

73 11. Provide funding and resources to Department of Energy labs and other relevant
74 federal agencies to increase their capacity to work with states and provide
75 technical assistance to help navigate future energy needs and supplies.