

## **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**, waters of the [name of state] are a common resource that must be held in the public trust, a doctrine rooted in an ancient legal principle that enables states to protect natural resources for the benefit of all;

**WHEREAS**, access to water and sanitation are basic human rights recognized by the United Nations, which has declared the right of every person to sufficient, safe, acceptable, accessible and affordable water;

**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;

**AND 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, prioritizing grant

assistance to disadvantaged communities, and helping improve rural household wells and septic systems;

**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;

**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.

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]