

Encouraging Grid Modernization

Sponsored by: Sen. Moisés “Mo” Denis (NV)

1 **WHEREAS**, investments in local infrastructure are making America's cities technologically
2 innovative for the purpose of creating a better quality of life for citizens, providing for the
3 health, safety, and welfare of all our communities; and particularly, fixed income, low-
4 income, under-served and minority communities;" and,

5 **WHEREAS**, according to the Center for the New Energy Economy at Colorado State
6 University, "high quality and reliable electricity is required to support the transition to a
7 digital economy. Emerging physical and cyber security threats, along with increased demand
8 for faster outage response times, require, at minimum, real-time incident response
9 capabilities. Enabling the integration of energy efficient technologies and practices, clean
10 energy technologies like distributed and utility-scale renewable energy resources, and
11 electric vehicles, while also ensuring the adoption of advanced metering, energy storage, and
12 micro-grid technologies, modernizing our electric system will provide economic benefits,
13 increased security, and more reliable, resilient, and clean electricity;"¹ and,

14 **WHEREAS**, "smart cities" have the potential to bridge economic and social barriers through
15 technology and innovation and provide much needed benefits to all citizens including better
16 health, cleaner air, and increased employment opportunities; and,

17 **WHEREAS**, the creation of smart cities consists of partnerships between government and
18 the private sector including electric companies as they play an integral role in deploying
19 innovative technologies that benefit its customers; and,

20 **WHEREAS**, "grid Modernization efforts compliment other policies such as demand response
21 policies, customer data management, smart metering infrastructure, electric vehicles and
22 others. Policy approaches around grid modernization should be seen as an umbrella to put
23 in place a structure that supports and ties together these other individual policy initiatives;"²
24 and,

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26 **WHEREAS**, the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL) recognizes that a
27 modernized electric grid is part of a holistic approach to creating and maintaining smart city
28 infrastructure and ensuring all customers have access to safe, reliable, and affordable energy
29 options; and,

¹ Colorado State University, *Center for the New Energy Economy*. Available at:
<https://spotforcleanenergy.org/policy/grid-modernization-plan/>

² Colorado State University, *Center for the New Energy Economy*. Available at:
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30 **WHEREAS**, the NHCSL recognizes the regulatory challenges faced by stakeholders as they
31 address the crucial question of who will bear the costs of creating and maintaining smart
32 cities and, in particular, the costs to fixed-income and other vulnerable classes of customers;
33 and,

34 **WHEREAS**, the driving principle guiding grid modernization policy should be to ensure that
35 companies and local governments can use the modernized grid to deliver improved services
36 at lower costs to consumers; and,

37 **WHEREAS**, public policymakers must ensure smart cities benefit all customers as they
38 manage city ambitions, utility investments, and regulatory policy.

39 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Hispanic Caucus State Legislators
40 (NHCSL) will work with policymakers on the local, state, and federal level to develop policies
41 that facilitate and accelerate the development of smart cities and ensure all communities
42 benefit from its technologies; and,

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NHCSL affirm their support for the creation and
44 maintenance of smart cities, with an intentional focus of providing for the most under-served
45 and vulnerable communities; and,

46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NHCSL recognizes the crucial role played by energy
47 companies in investing and maintaining a modernized grid that ensures reliability, safety
48 and affordability for all customers and that a modernized grid uses innovative technology
49 that enhances smart city connectivity with privacy while generating economic opportunities;
50 and,

51 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of
52 the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the United States
53 House of Representatives and the United States Senate, and other federal and state
54 government officials as appropriate.

55 THE NATIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS OF STATE LEGISLATORS RATIFIED THIS RESOLUTION
56 ON DECEMBER 8, 2018 AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA.