

National Federation of Democratic Women
Resolution to Keep America's Public Land and Beaches Publicly Owned

WHEREAS, Certain lands deemed public, deeded to the public, for public use (including customary use), and/or granted public access across the U.S. are presently targeted for privatization, which takes ownership rights away from the public; and

WHEREAS, The Democratic (DNC) Platform in 2016 stated *“As a nation, we need policies and investments that will keep America's public lands public, keep public beaches public, strengthen protections for our natural and cultural resources, increase access to parks and public lands for all Americans, protect species and wildlife, and harness the immense economic and social potential of our public lands and waters.”* The Republican (RNC) party's platform began its attack on public lands in the 80's, and in 2016, the (RNC) party platform asked Congress to ***“Immediately pass universal legislation providing the timely and orderly mechanism requiring the federal government to convey certain federally controlled public lands to the states.”*** Now in 2019, ambitious Republicans are still aggressively seeking to fulfill their party's platform across our nation. Publicly owned land and beaches across the United States are under attack, targeted for privatization. Political scientist, Gerald Pomper, suggests this is expected, as he states that lawmakers usually do cast votes that accord with platform positions, and that in presidential election years, about two-thirds of platform promises do get fulfilled in some form during the following four years; and

WHEREAS, The Republican (RNC) platform's desire to privatize public land harms environmental conservation, barrier island preservation and other realized protections that often serve as our first line of defense for environmental protections and as a natural first defense to climate change.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the National Federation of Democratic Women oppose any effort to remove public land ownership from the public across the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women supports our local, state, and federal policymakers in their effort to strengthen public land protections for the purposes of conservation, preservation, and environmental progress as stated above in the 2016 DNC party platform statement. The National Federation of Democratic Women concurs with the DNC Platform statement protecting public lands from privatization and further encourages all elected Democrats to act in support of this platform statement.