

SENATE RESOLUTION

8637

By Senators Kuderer, Das, Frockt, Hunt, Keiser, Lias, Lovelett, Nguyen, Nobles, Pedersen, Robinson, Short, Stanford, Trudeau, Wellman, C. Wilson, Dhingra, and Hasegawa

1 WHEREAS, Women in Cloud is a woman-led, grassroots economic
2 development organization founded in Seattle, Washington working to
3 generate one billion dollars in new economic access for women-led
4 technology entrepreneurs across the globe by 2030; and

5 WHEREAS, Forbes found that women tech entrepreneurs, despite
6 having received fifty percent less venture capital funding, produce
7 twenty percent higher revenues than their male equivalents; and

8 WHEREAS, Only five percent of leadership positions in the
9 technology industry are held by women and more than two-thirds of US
10 start-ups have no women at all on their board of directors; and

11 WHEREAS, The technology sector has proven invaluable during the
12 COVID-19 pandemic, giving many employers the ability to continue
13 operations with employees working from their homes while the public
14 health crisis continues; and

15 WHEREAS, As economic relief efforts for small businesses continue
16 during and after the pandemic, it is important for such relief
17 efforts to be carried out in an equitable manner; and

18 WHEREAS, The underrepresentation of women in technology
19 leadership harms technological development and societal and economic
20 growth, and is unacceptable in the 21st century; and

21 WHEREAS, The Women in Cloud organization plays a vital role in
22 the ongoing economic recovery period working to ensure women-owned
23 enterprises continue to survive and thrive post pandemic; and

1 WHEREAS, The Women in Cloud Accelerator Program provides
2 resources, consultation, networking connections, and global
3 platforms for women-led tech companies; and

4 WHEREAS, The Women in Cloud Universal Digital Upskilling and
5 ReSkilling Program provides over 1000 cloud skilling
6 scholarships, resources, networking connections, and global
7 platforms for women professionals to access economically-
8 fulfilling jobs; and

9 WHEREAS, The Women in Cloud #empowHERaccess digital advocacy
10 campaign provides industry focused research, resources,
11 networking connections and spotlights women leaders and allies
12 to advance policy for economic and workforce development for
13 women founders and professionals; and

14 WHEREAS, The Women in Cloud Annual Conference has seen
15 tremendous growth in popularity in just three years with its
16 inaugural conference hosting 450 participants, to an expected
17 global attendance of more than 1,500 for this year's conference;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Through the creation of new partnerships in regions
20 beyond the Pacific Northwest, Women in Cloud has expanded their
21 accelerator program to eight other countries around the world;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, The Washington State Legislature encourages other
24 legislatures across the nation and governing bodies in other
25 countries to partner with Women in Cloud to ensure women-led
26 technology firms have equitable access to economic opportunity
27 for generations to come;

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
29 Senate recognize the value of this initiative to inspire,
30 empower, and accelerate the growth of women-led technology
31 companies and promote the efforts of women entrepreneurs and
32 leaders; and

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
34 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the
35 Women in Cloud Digital Summit 2022, to be held virtually on
36 January 26 through 28, 2022.

37 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,

1 do hereby certify that this is a true and
2 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8637,
3 adopted by the Senate
4 January 25, 2022

5 SARAH BANNISTER
6 Secretary of the Senate