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Mayor and Councilmembers
City of Long Beach
411 W Ocean Blvd
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Agenda Item 15 of the February 16, 2021 meeting of the Long Beach City Council

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

I write in support of Agenda Item 15, asking the City Attorney to prepare a resolution in support of the certification and publication of the final ratifications for the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and the Joint Resolution introduced to Congress to eliminate the deadline for ratification.

The Equal Rights Amendment was passed by Congress in 1972 after a long 50-year struggle to recognize, once and for all, equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex in the United States. Since that time, the required 38 states have proudly moved forward and ratified the amendment, ending with Virginia in 2020. The National Archivist's failure to consider the ERA ratified only prolongs the inevitable and delays the full rights and protections of women everywhere in this county.

I strongly support, and would ask the Long Beach City Council to support, this agenda item and help lead the fight to enshrine in our Constitution, that men and women are and forever will be equal in the eyes of our government. As a state legislator, and as someone married to a barrier breaking woman, I have seen the struggles women face in this country, without having to live them. The basic rights and freedoms accorded to me, should not be denied to my wife, my daughter, or my grandchildren, simply because they are women. The support of equality of rights is not a partisan issue, and should not be treated as such.

I strongly want to encourage the members of the Long Beach City Council to support equal rights regardless of sex and support of this resolution.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Umberg
State Senator, District 34
U.S. Army Colonel (ret.)