



CALIFORNIA SENATE

# RESOLUTION

By the Honorable Mark Leno, 11th Senatorial District;  
Relative to Commending

## *Shari Steele*

**WHEREAS**, Shari Steele, Executive Director of Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), has demonstrated in her service to that organization and through her involvement in the local community an outstanding record of professional and civic leadership, and upon the occasion of her retirement, she is deserving of special honors and the highest commendations; and

**WHEREAS**, Prior to accepting the responsibilities of Executive Director in 2000, Shari Steele served for eight years as the EFF's Legal Director, in which capacity she advised the NTIA on hate crimes in telecommunications, the United States Sentencing Commission on sentencing guidelines for the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, and the No Electronic Theft Act and the National Research Council on U.S. encryption policy; and

**WHEREAS**, As Executive Director of EFF, Shari Steele has provided exceptional direction and leadership to a nonprofit organization that was founded in 1990 to defend civil liberties in the digital world, and during her tenure, she steered EFF through its phenomenal growth in reach and importance, expanded its team to include Intellectual Policy Specialists, created the International Team, and, recognizing the need for technical expertise in policy and legal decisions affecting the use of digital technologies, was responsible for hiring the organization's first Staff Technologist, to name just a few of her many accomplishments; and

**WHEREAS**, An alumna of Widener University School of Law, Shari Steele also holds a Master of Science degree in Instructional Media from West Chester University and served as a teaching fellow at Georgetown University Law Center, from which she earned a Master of Laws degree in Advocacy, and she is a cofounder of Bridges.org, a nonprofit organization that works to ensure sound technology policy in developing nations; and

**WHEREAS**, A renowned expert in the field of Internet law, Shari Steele has spoken widely on civil liberties law in newly emerging technologies, including on the CBS Evening News, C-SPAN's Washington Journal, The Today Show, CNN, the BBC, and National Public Radio, as well as on Internet law as part of the Smithsonian Institution's lecture series on the Internet and at the ABA's TechWorld Conference, the National Law Journal's annual Computer Law Conference, and the National Forum for Women Corporate Counsel; and

**WHEREAS**, In the course of their careers, few people are fortunate enough to be associated with an individual whose personal, professional, and civic accomplishments are without parallel and whose example both inspires and brings out the very best in others--Shari Steele is one of those unique human beings, and as she retires, she leaves an indelible mark of excellence as her legacy; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED BY SENATOR MARK LENO**, That Shari Steele be commended for her exemplary record of leadership as Executive Director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, applauded for her dedication and contributions to the people of the State of California and beyond, and conveyed best wishes for all the richness and rewards of an active and productive retirement.

Member Resolution No. 356  
Dated this 3rd day of April, 2015.

Honorable Mark Leno  
11th Senatorial District