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Mountain Home, Idaho, February 19th, 1914.

Senator W.E. Borah

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir;--

Will you please tell me what is now the status of the Woman Suffrage bill in the Senate? I believe it is Senate Joint Resolution No. I. We Idaho women have felt so sure that our Senators would "vote right" on this bill that we have not bothered you with letters on the subject, but the bill is dragging along so that we are becoming uneasy. What is the trouble? Is there anything we can do to help?

Yours sincerely,

Bertha Stull Green

Chairman Legislative Committee,
Idaho Fed. of Women's Clubs.

Feb. 24, 1914.

My dear Mrs. Green:

I have your letter making inquiry in regard to the proposed amendment to the constitution for equal suffrage and asking why the delay. The resolution is on the calendar and I presume will be voted on before a great while. I do not know just what the cause of the delay is but my opinion is that the friends of the measure are desirous of using its presence upon the calendar in the way of discussion from time to time as as an educational matter. It has been intimated to me that the friends of the measure do not hope to pass it but are desirous of securing as much discussion of it as possible as a matter of education where the fight is going on in the States. My opinion is the measure will not pass when it comes to a vote but will be defeated. I do not think it can get a two thirds vote. If the measure was introduced simply for the purpose of getting the benefit of the discussion hoping that it would help in the States where the fight is going on I think it was a very good thing to do. But I have doubted very much the wisdom of trying to secure suffrage by amendment to the national constitution. Since I have been in the East I have given what time I could in different States, New

Jersey, Maryland and other States to speaking in behalf of woman suffrage but I stated in the beginning that in my opinion it was a tactical mistake and also in a broader sense unwise to undertake to amend the constitution. By making the fight the suffrage cause draws upon itself the burden of the race question in the South. There are a great many people, among whom I am one, who really feel that it would be unjust even if we could do it to further complicate the race question in the South. It is apparent to anyone who has studied the situation that it would only lead to fraud and riot and wrong doing in order to get rid of the colored woman vote in the South. I say to you frankly, Mrs. Green, I feel that the wise and effective way to fight for woman suffrage is in the States. You will get it much more rapidly and effectively in that way than you will by undertaking to amend the constitution and I wish those of you who give much consideration to this matter and who I know are desirous of being fair to all parts of the country would reflect upon the proposition of imposing upon the Southern ^{People} ~~people~~ an accentuated condition which already is insufferably bad. If it were not for the Southern situation the matter would be much easier. Of course I could vote for this resolution and still be perfectly safe so far as practical effects are concerned

because it will not receive a two thirds vote. But I do not like to cast a vote even in a formal way against my conscientious convictions that it is unwise and unjust. I am writing you thus frankly because I feel very earnestly about it. While I have no doubt that woman suffrage would be a good thing for the Northern States yet I feel that they will get it just as readily through the action of the individual states as in this way. In other words, I would like to see the real fight made in the States until some ameliorated condition of the South is more apparent than it is now. However, I have not taken any steps to delay the voting on the resolution and shall not. I think the delay has been caused by its friends, by those who have been managing it, in other words.

Very respectfully,

Mrs. Bertha Stull Green,
Mountainhome, Idaho.