

Resolution Concerning Broadband Network Development

WHEREAS, The Federal Communication Commission's proposal on video dialtone, described in its Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, First Report and Order, and Second Further Notice of Inquiry in CC Docket No. 87-266, could lead to the availability of alternative facilities for the distribution of video programming and other broadband services, which is intended to benefit consumers by giving them additional choices; and

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) considers the FCC's NPRM an important step towards making available to users valuable new broadband services that are easily-accessible, user-friendly, and widely available; and

WHEREAS, Increased competition between cable television providers and local exchange carriers for the distribution of video programming to consumers could encourage the economic deployment of advanced telecommunications technology; and

WHEREAS, The preferred method to encourage efficient broadband distribution investment is for that investment to be made to meet demand for new services where possible, using marketplace forces to decide how investment should proceed; and

WHEREAS, In its NPRM, the FCC has not endorsed a particular network architecture or technology; and

WHEREAS, Uniform national technical standards for interconnection must be in place and enforced if there is to be any possibility of multiple providers of broadband services; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee of the NARUC, convened at its Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C., recognizes that the offering of video dialtone capacity by the LECs is but one means of providing consumers with broadband capabilities and that a multi-provider telecommunications infrastructure is better able to provide customers with choice of bandwidth, and the widest array of flexible information transport capabilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the FCC should be commended for examining the regulatory framework under which LECs could use their networks to offer broadband services to customers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the FCC must address the questions of jurisdictional separations, and cost allocations in conjunction with the authorization of video dialtone and other broadband services; and be it further

RESOLVED, That providers offering video dialtone services for public use should be required to offer basic services on a

tariffed, nondiscriminatory, unbundled, common carrier basis,

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under an ONA framework, and where technically and economically feasible be required to make basic video dialtone services universally available; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the FCC should define the principles it will use to classify video dialtone features as basic or enhanced, and that these principles be defined independent of application to any particular video dialtone approach; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the FCC should not take actions that would prevent state commissions from considering regulatory incentives to promote the provision of video dialtone and other broadband services by LEC and non-LEC service providers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That NARUC continues to support its resolution on cable telco cross ownership adopted at the July 1990 committee meetings; and be it further

RESOLVED, That NARUC encourage the FCC to continue exploring all alternatives to providing customers with broadband capabilities, of which fiber is just one; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the FCC be encouraged to consider how non-commercial, public, educational, and local governmental authorities will be assured economic access to channel capacity and related information made available by common carriers; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the FCC be encouraged to consider how to measure, monitor and report the customer benefit factors derived from these investments.

Sponsored by the Committee on Communications

Adopted March 4, 1992

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