

Resolution Encouraging Consensus Building for Carbon Emission Reduction Strategies

WHEREAS, The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is working to develop an agreement on carbon emission reduction strategies; and

WHEREAS, According to the Energy Information Administration, the United States emits more CO₂ --1,485 million metric tons of carbon in 1998 -- than any other nation in the world; and

WHEREAS, According to the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, global atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide have increased from approximately 280 parts per million in the pre-industrial age to 362 parts per million in 1996 (a 29% increase); and

WHEREAS, The State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administrators (STAPPA) and the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials (ALAPCO) state that electric power plants account for 37 percent of total U.S. emissions of CO₂, and must therefore play a critical role in managing and mitigating CO₂ emissions; and

WHEREAS, While STAPPA and ALAPCO have produced a menu of harmonized options and strategies for reducing greenhouse gases and air pollution, no national consensus on pragmatic cost-effective proposals or targets to achieve reductions in carbon emissions has been reached; and

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), in its resolution adopted in its 1997

Summer Meeting in San Francisco, California, supported the full and vigorous debate on global climate change measures; and

WHEREAS, NARUC is in a good position to bring stakeholders together to discuss climate change and CO₂ mitigation efforts because, as an organization of utility commissioners, NARUC and its members weigh and balance competing interests, viewpoints and impacts in order to determine the public interest; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its March 2000 Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C., agrees that consensus-building efforts, involving all stakeholders, would be helpful in contributing to pragmatic, cost-effective national policies on carbon emissions management from electricity generation and consumption; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC will continue to promote the consensus-building process, including organizing the Energy and the Environment the Second National Conference of Policy-Makers Working Together in St. Louis, Missouri on September 24-27, 2000; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That to better enable NARUC members to promote and participate in a CO₂ emission mitigation strategy consensus-building process, NARUC should re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee on Climate Change and provide the appropriate and necessary staff and administrative support.

Sponsored by the Committees on Energy Resources and the
Environment, International Relations and Electricity

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, March 8, 2000.