

Resolution On The Impact Of Gas Industry Restructuring On Low-Income Residential Consumers

WHEREAS, As a result of actions taken by Federal and State regulators, the gas utility industry may now be undergoing significant structural and operational changes as more market oriented policies are implemented; and

WHEREAS, While the injection of greater competition into gas markets has the potential to improve the efficiency of utilities, there is also the possibility that these changes could lead to shifts among customer classes in ways that increase costs and disproportionately affect low-income residential customers; and

WHEREAS, As a group, low-income households pay a larger share of their incomes for gas than any other customer class; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its 2000 Summer Meeting in Los Angeles, California urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and individual States, when implementing policies to restructure gas utility services and operations, to protect low-income consumers from adverse impacts of such restructuring by addressing among other policies that a State may deem appropriate:

- Unfair cost shifting between customer classes;
- Availability of the benefits of a competitive market to each customer class without undue discrimination;

- Maintenance of fair and reasonable billing and collection practices;
- Sustain commission-approved low-income energy efficiency and rate programs;
- Limiting disproportionate environmental impacts in low-income neighborhoods; and
- Ensuring the effective participation of all citizens in the restructuring debate.

Sponsored by the Committee on Gas

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, July 26, 2000.