

Resolution on the NARUC Intercarrier Compensation Task Force

WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission has issued a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on numerous broad questions relating to intercarrier compensation; *and*

WHEREAS, A NARUC Task Force has been at work for more than a year evaluating the proposals of several industry groups and seeking consensus among those groups; *and*

WHEREAS, Pursuant to the recommendations of the Task Force, NARUC adopted a statement of policy principles for intercarrier compensation on May 5, 2004; *and*

WHEREAS, At the summer NARUC meeting in Salt Lake City, the Task Force sponsored a NARUC Meeting panel discussion of intercarrier compensation issues; *and*

WHEREAS, In the following months, the NARUC Task Force has conducted four additional multi-day meetings, in Missoula, Nashville, and Washington D.C. (twice), in each case meeting with from 20 to 40 plus stakeholders from the full range of telecommunications industries; *and*

WHEREAS, The NARUC Task Force has carefully reviewed and discussed a range of intercarrier compensation plans, including those proposed by interexchange carriers, rural local exchange companies and public advocates, as well as less formal input from the cable and wireless industries as well as individual companies; *and*

WHEREAS, The NARUC Task Force has published for comment “The Task Force” proposal for intercarrier compensation; *and*

WHEREAS, The Task Force proposal draws elements from several plans proposed by industry groups, but also proposes some new ideas; *and*

WHEREAS, The NARUC Task Force met in Washington, D.C., in January of this year with the stakeholder group of forty plus members to discuss the proposal and has reviewed and considered numerous oral and written comments from the stakeholders prior to and subsequent to the meeting in modifying the Task Force proposal; *and*

WHEREAS, The Task Force proposal would unify compensation by jurisdiction, by paying carrier, and by technology, would allow States to opt into a new national system of uniform rates, and would propose substantial reform of universal service mechanisms; *and*

WHEREAS, There are still key issues under active discussion and evaluation by the States and by NARUC, as well as by stakeholders that have participated in this process; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its February 2005 Winter Meetings in Washington, D.C., asks the FCC to carefully consider the Task Force proposal as discussions continue on the Task Force proposal in an attempt to reach a still broader consensus on key issues; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the intercarrier compensation reform proposal that NARUC might ultimately endorse should adhere to the policy principles adopted on May 5, 2004, to the extent possible, and should seek support among all industry, consumer, and governmental stakeholders; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC's General Counsel shall file comments at the FCC to that effect.

Sponsored by the Telecommunications Committee

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors February 16, 2005