

Resolution Supporting the "KNOW FRAUD" Identity Theft Initiative

WHEREAS, In November 1999, President Clinton launched KNOW FRAUD, the largest consumer protection initiative effort undertaken and cited it as an excellent example of "coordination among the federal government's consumer protection agencies;" *and*

WHEREAS, The initiative, to date, has included a postcard mailing to 120 million American households alerting consumers to the dangers of telemarketing and mail fraud, a national press conference, and more than 100 press conferences in cities across the country; *and*

WHEREAS, The KNOW FRAUD partnership hopes to duplicate the success of the first initiative and is now focusing its attention on identity theft (an individual using another's personal information to obtain assets or services without making payment) and has invited NARUC's continued active participation; *and*

WHEREAS, Through the end of October 2000, the Federal Trade Commission has logged 5,034 identity theft claims involving utilities, or 28% of all identity theft complaints, most relating to telephone services to which the victim did not subscribe; *and*

WHEREAS, On March 15-16, 2000, the Department of Treasury hosted the first-ever National Summit on Identity Theft in Washington, D.C., which was supported by the Postal Inspection Service, Social Security Administration, Secret Service, Internal Revenue Service, Department of Justice, and

the Federal Trade Commission; *and*

WHEREAS, The Identity Theft initiative will be launched in May 2001; *and*

WHEREAS, The Identity Theft Database, established by the Federal Trade Commission (a KNOW FRAUD partner) at the direction of Congress, reports that 40 % of all identity theft complaints relate to stolen utility services documents; *and*

WHEREAS, A Web site (www.consumer.gov/knowfraud) has been developed and provides additional detailed information about KNOW FRAUD in general and partnering agencies; *and*

WHEREAS, The partnership is seeking support from NARUC's members and the utilities they regulate to participate in a national effort to send consumers an identity theft prevention message via utility billing statements and other customer contact methods; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), assembled in its November 2000 112th Annual Convention in San Diego, California, affirms the association's strong support for the KNOW FRAUD Program; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, NARUC believes the KNOW FRAUD initiative is a laudable proactive measure to better serve and protect customers from identity theft fraud; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, NARUC encourages its members to visit the KNOW FRAUD website to review the information provided, to urge regulated utilities to participate in the program, and to

consider providing some of this information on the consumer information sections of their websites or contact one of the three credit reporting agencies.

Sponsored by the Committee on Consumer Affairs

Recommended by the Board of Directors.

Adopted in Convention November 15, 2000.