

Resolution on Recommendations For Review of State  
Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) Tariffs

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**WHEREAS**, In 2001, NARUC created the Ad Hoc Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee to examine potential recommendations to States and municipalities to, among other things, address national security and emergency preparedness (NS/EP) measures; and

**WHEREAS**, Telecommunications plays a fundamental and vital role in ensuring that States and municipalities can effectively carry out their NS/EP responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, The telecommunications service priority (TSP) program provides the means for all entities engaged in NS/EP activities to ensure that their most critical telecommunications lines will be restored on a priority basis under all circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, The TSP program can, therefore, can play a vital role in protecting the nation's homeland security by providing priority restoration for communications services that are essential for State and local emergency service providers, including law enforcement, fire, ambulance, and 9-1-1 centers, especially during disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, Telecommunications service providers charge for TSP services, primarily under State tariffs; and

**WHEREAS**, Most of these tariffs were established in the 1980s and were designed to recover the cost of implementing the TSP program as well as the day-to-day cost of operations; and

**WHEREAS**, Most of these tariffs have remained unchanged since their initial adoption, even though the TSP program is now well established and initial implementation costs may no longer be relevant; and

**WHEREAS**, There is a very large State-to-State variation in local exchange companies' TSP tariffs; and

**WHEREAS**, Many State and local organizations that operate emergency operations are having difficulty participating in the TSP program because of budgetary constraints; and

**WHEREAS**, It is important that the TSP tariffs be reasonable and affordable and reflect the on-going operational costs of providing TSP service so that organizations that provide critical NS/EP functions are not unreasonably prevented from participating in the TSP program; now therefore be it,

**RESOLVED**, That the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners (NARUC) convened in its July 2003 Summer Meetings in Denver, Colorado recommends that State public utility commissions review, and as necessary and as authority permits, require revisions to the respective TSP tariffs in their respective jurisdictions to ensure they are fair, reasonable, and affordable to the organizations who purchase such services in order to promote the homeland security.

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Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications and Ad Hoc Committee on Critical Infrastructure

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors July 30, 2003