Resolution Urging the Amendment of
the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984
to Protect the Public Interest

WHEREAS, *Cable television systems provide news, information, sports and entertainment programming to millions of American households under franchises awarded by government officials; and*

WHEREAS, *As systems have grown, television generally, and cable television services specifically, have become increasingly important to the American public as reflected by the following statistics: of approximately 90 million American households, 87 million possess televisions (compared to 82.6 million which possess telephones); 70 million households have access to basic cable services, and 43.5 million subscribe to basic cable services--almost half of all households; and*

WHEREAS, *The Congress enacted the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, which, beginning in January 1987, prohibits State and local governments from regulating the rates and services of cable systems; and*

WHEREAS, *Despite the enactment of this statute, recent studies conclusively indicate that cable systems remain monopolies, now unregulated, within their franchise territories; and*

WHEREAS, *This monopoly power, coupled with deregulation, has led to steep rate increases; and*

WHEREAS, *Congress has pending several bills which address in various ways the issues of competition and reregulation of the cable television industry; now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, *That the Executive Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), assembled at its 1990 Winter Committee Meeting in Washington, D.C., hereby urges the Congress to repeal the provisions of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 which prohibit State and local officials from regulating cable television systems thereby leaving to the States the decision whether or not to pass laws or promulgate regulations they deem appropriate to promote competition and protect the public interest.*

Sponsored by the Committee on Communications
Adopted February 28, 1990