

Resolution on Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards

WHEREAS, Energy efficiency standards for newly manufactured appliances and lighting equipment significantly reduce consumer utility bills and assist in meeting State and Federal environmental objectives; *and*

WHEREAS, Many States took the initiative in the 1970's and 80's to identify and promulgate economically justified appliance efficiency standards; *and*

WHEREAS, Manufacturers came to prefer uniform national standards to preserve a national market for their products; *and*

WHEREAS, The National Appliance Energy Conservation Act was enacted in 1987, embodying a compromise whereby the appliance industry accepted national energy efficiency standards and a process to update them in the future, and the States accepted Federal preemption of State standards; *and*

WHEREAS, Uniform national appliance efficiency standards reduce the costs for the States to enforce appliance standards; *and*

WHEREAS, The national standards promulgated to date are estimated by the U.S. Department of Energy to produce net savings to consumers of at least \$100 billion; *and*

WHEREAS, The Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 1996, which became law as part of PL 104-134 on April 26, 1996, prohibits the Department of Energy (DOE) from using funds to propose, issue, or prescribe any new or amended energy efficiency standards until October 1, 1996; *and*

WHEREAS, The effect of this moratorium has been to delay a new energy efficiency standard for refrigerators and freezers that implements a consensus agreement negotiated by appliance manufacturers, State energy offices, utilities, and energy efficiency and environmental groups; *and*

WHEREAS, This proposed new standard for refrigerators had been estimated by DOE to provide consumers with net present benefits in excess of \$8 billion, and was also expected to cut carbon emissions by 30 million metric tons from 1999 to 2015; *and*

WHEREAS, The Department of Energy has fallen well behind the schedules established by law for the promulgation of new efficiency standards for other products, including clothes washers; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its 1996 Summer Committee Meetings in Los Angeles, California, hereby urges the U.S. Congress to restore sufficient funding and authority to the Department of Energy to allow it to resume setting national standards for appliance energy efficiency without delay in Fiscal Year 1997; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC urges the Department of Energy to issue a final refrigerator and freezer standard based on the consensus agreement as soon as possible; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC urges each State to remain an active participant in DOE's standard-setting process to ensure that new appliance efficiency standards achieve the maximum amount of energy savings that is technically feasible and economically justified.

Sponsored by the Committee on Energy Conservation
Adopted July 25, 1996