

Resolution Honoring Montana Public Service Commission Chairman Bob Rowe

WHEREAS, “Magna Carta” Bob began his 24 years of public service in 1980 as a Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) – a status and spirit that looms large in any close examination of his career – working with senior citizens, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans and others in Billings, Montana, on housing, health, utility, and other matters; *and*

WHEREAS, From his VISTA work, Bob moved on to work for over 10 years with the Montana Legal Services Association, representing parties in cases before the Montana PSC and also taking cases covering health, senior citizens, and consumer law; *and*

WHEREAS, Bob Rowe’s list of professional achievements, without exaggeration (no exaggeration is necessary), if listed *in toto* – would weigh in along the level of a Tom Clancy novel, a characteristic, unfortunately, it shares with several of his speeches to NARUC and others (one with 55 plus slides) and his curriculum vitae (weighing in at nine pages); *and*

WHEREAS, Bob Rowe’s departure from NARUC has already generated a new grants proposal from DOE on energy conservation to study the curious relationship, first noted by certain members of the international committee, between brownouts and Bob Rowe’s PowerPoint presentations, particularly in rural and international venues; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Rowe organized, produced and emceed National Broadband Summits II & III, which sets the stage for more power point presentations in his future life; *and*

WHEREAS, NARUC commends Chairman Rowe for his innumerable hours of service to the citizens of the United States of America, to the citizens of Montana, and to his colleagues within the association; *and*

WHEREAS, Bob was awarded a fellowship with the National Consumer Law Center in Boston, in 1989, where, on behalf of the Florida Attorney General, he developed a proposal to give customers accurate and useful information about long distance telephone prices as an alternative to traditional rate regulation; *and*

WHEREAS, In 1992, sensing an opportunity for gaining true notoriety as one of Montana’s “famous Bobs” – he won a seat on the Montana PSC, and was re-elected in 1996 and 2000 becoming a respected national voice on all things telecom, squeezing in among the very long hours of service to the citizens of his State, service to NARUC as its President, as one of the most active chairs in NARUC Telecommunications Committee history, as a member and current State Chair of the Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service and as a member of the Federal State Joint Conference on Advanced Services; *and*

WHEREAS, Bob Rowe provided the steady leadership that enabled the Montana PSC to secure major ratepayer protections in the settlement of the North Western Corporation bankruptcy; *and*

WHEREAS, As NARUC President, Bob strengthened the organization’s position in Washington, by, among other things, establishing a Congressional briefing series, testifying, and

meeting frequently with Members of Congress; working on implementation of the Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Services; working with the NARUC standing committees to develop comprehensive positions on federal energy restructuring, balancing the interests of various States; worked with the NARUC Consumer Affairs Committee on innovative approaches to consumer protection and information; leading an effort to develop an early analysis of and response to the spike in natural gas prices, coordinating with the NARUC Gas Committee and the U.S. Department of Energy; supporting efforts for minority involvement in energy and telecommunications; expanding NARUC's international work in energy and telecommunications; leading in the establishment of a 501(c)(3) foundation; and helping to advance the organization's sound financial and management practices; *and*

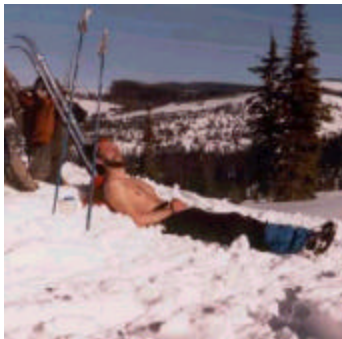
WHEREAS, As Chairman of the NARUC Telecommunications Committee (1997-1999), Commissioner Rowe led NARUC's telecommunications work at a critical time following passage of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, advocating and helping to implement a "cooperative federalist" approach to U.S. telecommunications policy, and emphasizing competition, universal service, technology deployment and access; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Rowe has made significant contributions to the regulatory community, to NARUC, and to the public interests of the people of the United States during his service with the NARUC Committee on Telecommunications, the 706 Conference, and the Universal Service Joint Board; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Rowe has always conducted himself in a manner that truly distinguished his service to the regulatory community, the Commission, and the citizens of Montana; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its November 2004, Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee extends hearty congratulations and its sincere thanks to Commissioner Rowe for his distinguished public service.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications
Adopted by the NARUC November 17, 2004*



*"A picture from the seventies – the last time anyone saw Bob relaxing" JoAnn Sanford
"Bob Rowe, in business casual attire, and in a rare moment of sanity" Bob Nelson*