

Resolution Honoring the Honorable "Mr. Preserve and Advance"  
Christopher H. Mclean

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**WHEREAS**, Shortly (very shortly) after matriculating from Creighton University in the thriving cultural metropolis of Omaha, Nebraska with both a BS and a JD, Chris immediately put his "BS" degree to good use by moving to Washington and taking employment at the United States Senate – where advanced "BS" education is more or less free to all but the American taxpayer; and

**WHEREAS**, While in the Senate, Chris served the public as a legislative assistant and legal counsel to Nebraska Senator James Exon, where he polished his negotiation skills for years before Senator Bob Kerry - a man who obviously recognized keen analytical ability, political savvy, (and the ability to focus at great length upon, and actually understand the most boring and complex regulatory problems) when he saw it, snatched him away to act as his legislative counsel; and

**WHEREAS**, During his 15 years of distinguished public service in the United States Senate, Mr. Mclean, racked up an impressive list of accomplishments – though perhaps the best known, according to one old colleague - John Windhausen – was coining the "farm team" moniker for a bipartisan group of raucous rural advocates; and

**WHEREAS**, Of course, while on the Hill, Mr. Mclean also suffered through 3 years of close confinement with Earl Comstock, Katie King, Carol Ann Bishoff, Sheryl Bruner (the "farm team" staff) in Captain Greg's (Rhode) "Mambo Hut" dutifully crafting one of the most critical sections of the 1996

legislation dealing with universal service; and

**WHEREAS**, Shortly (very shortly) after that three year confinement, Mr. Mclean jumped at the chance to escape to the RUS as the deputy administrator – ultimately moving to the top slot as Administrator of the agency; and

**WHEREAS**, During his tenure at the RUS he, in the words of one Washington insider, "defined a 21st Century agenda for the agency, embracing renewables, advanced service, and an aggressive environmental agenda for water;" and

**WHEREAS**, Sixty-five years after windmills left rural America because electricity made them obsolete, during Chris's watch, the RUS made the first "renewable" energy loans for windmill (and solar) power bringing them back; Chris also stretched the reach of the RUS loan programs to reach CLEC and mobile wireless options; and

**WHEREAS**, Rural America owes Chris Mclean an extraordinary debt for his unflagging advocacy and intellectual leadership to ensure all Americans participate in the benefits available through modern telecommunications technologies; and

**WHEREAS**, Members of the Rural Task Force will always remember Chris as the person who in moments of heated debate brought instant levity to the room with his expected remark, "I think we are really close;" and

**WHEREAS**, As a Member of the Rural Task Force, "Mr. Preserve and Advance" worked in close quarters for 27 months with NARUCites Bill Gillis and Tom Wilson (and 16 others)

hammering out critically important universal service rules for Rural LECs; and

**WHEREAS**, Shortly (very shortly) after that, Mr. Mclean departed public service to take on new challenges; *now therefore be it*

**RESOLVED**, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, (NARUC) convened in its 2001 Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, DC expresses its sincere thanks to Mr. Mclean for his exemplary service to the Association, to his colleagues and to the public interest; *and be it further*

**RESOLVED**, That NARUC and its members send best wishes to our friend Chris for every success in his future endeavors.

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Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, February 28, 2001.