Resolution to Support the Renewal of the Collaborative Research Tax Credit

WHEREAS, The public benefit research activities of many organizations have been limited in recent years by a number of factors, including reduced federal funding for energy research, and the cost pressures on private industry; *and*

WHEREAS, The US energy industry is confronting an extremely critical time when investment in energy-related scientific research and technology deployment would stimulate US economic growth, increase energy supply and energy-efficiency, and improve the environment; *and*

WHEREAS, There is a valuable and important role that collaborative RD&D can assume in the creation and promotion of new advanced technologies that would address those US energy needs described above; *and*

WHEREAS, The collaborative model enables the highly cost-effective leveraging of research dollars for maximum impact and benefit, while encouraging private sector investment in energy R&D conducted in public interest; *and*

WHEREAS, The Energy Policy Act of 2005 modified the present-law research credit as it applies to collaborative energy research by providing a 20% "flat" (non-incremental) credit for paid or incurred expenditures to energy research consortia that are primarily engaged in research in the public interest; *and*

WHEREAS, The collaborative research tax credit expired December 31, 2005 and there has been inadequate time for its full potential to be realized; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its July 2006 Summer Meeting in San Francisco, California, expresses its support for renewal of the collaborative research tax credit as a valuable investment in America's leadership in technology innovation and global competitiveness.

Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity and Energy Resources and the Environment Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors August 2, 2006