

Resolution Honoring Nora Mead Brownell

WHEREAS, The Honorable Nora Mead Brownell is a native of Erie, Pennsylvania; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brownell attended Syracuse University and worked in the banking industry prior to entering public service; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brownell served as a campaign consultant for former Pennsylvania Governor Richard Thornburgh and as director of Governor Thornburgh's inauguration during 1981 and 1982; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brownell served as Deputy Executive Assistant to Governor Thornburgh from 1982 until 1987; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brownell served as Vice President and Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications for Meridian Bancorp from 1987 until 1996; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brownell served as Acting Executive Director of the Regional Performing Arts Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1997; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brownell was appointed a member of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission in 1997 by Governor Thomas Ridge and served in that capacity until 2001; *and*

WHEREAS, During her service on the Pennsylvania Commission, Commissioner Brownell played an active role in the implementation of retail electric competition in Pennsylvania, having paid particular attention to the development of Pennsylvania's Electric Choice Consumer Education Program and frequently asking "Where do you think you are, Pennsylvania?;" *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brownell was actively involved in the telecommunications arena during her service as a member of the Pennsylvania Commission, having supported the implementation of local telecommunications competition, the deployment of advanced services, the enhancement of rural service, and the protection of consumers; *and*

WHEREAS, During her service on the Pennsylvania Commission, Commissioner Brownell was noted for her independence and willingness to challenge the status quo for the benefit of consumers; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brownell was actively involved in the activities of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners during her tenure as a member of the Pennsylvania Commission; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brownell was elected President of NARUC at the 2000 Annual Convention held in San Diego, California; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brownell served with distinction as President of NARUC; *and*

WHEREAS, During her tenure as President of NARUC, Commissioner Brownell was instrumental in addressing various administrative issues, including the relocation of the NARUC office; testified before Congressional committees on energy-related issues; helped lead the development of NARUC's electric restructuring policies; and was a strong supporter and promoter of NARUC's international programs; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brownell was nominated for membership on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by President Bush on April 30, 2001 and took office in June, 2001 following Senate confirmation; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brownell's nomination to be a member of the FERC had the enthusiastic support of certain components of the telecommunications industry; *and*

WHEREAS, During her service as a member of the FERC, Commissioner Brownell was required to address many difficult and challenging issues, including the western electricity crisis; the financial difficulties faced by certain segments of the electric generation industry; the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001; the August 14, 2003, blackout; and the implementation of the Energy Policy Act of 2005; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brownell remained active in NARUC after assuming her duties at the FERC, having continued to serve as a member of the Committee on Electricity and a mentor to many NARUC members and having spoken at or otherwise participated in numerous NARUC events; *and*

WHEREAS, During her service as a member of FERC, Commissioner Brownell has been noted for her strong advocacy of competitive electric markets, having consistently supported policies that were intended to result in the development of robust, vibrant bulk power markets for the benefit of ultimate consumers; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brownell has been an outspoken advocate for the modernization of the nation's electric power infrastructure and the development of a more reliable electric grid; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brownell is noted for her passionate, but good-humored approach to public policy issues and her willingness to stand up for what she believes; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brownell has never taken herself too seriously, having been on one occasion carried into a public gathering on a litter by tuxedo-clad individuals singing "Markets are a girl's best friend;" *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Brownell's term as a member of the FERC has expired, finally giving her time to get to the bottom of her roof and air conditioning problems; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its Summer Committee Meetings in San Francisco, California, congratulates Commissioner Brownell on her lengthy and distinguished record of public service; extends its best wishes to her; and hopes that she will be successful and happy in all her future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors August 2, 2006