

Honorary Resolution for Jim McConnaughey

WHEREAS, Jim McConnaughey retired from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) on January 3, 2014, as Chief Economist after 34 years of distinguished federal service; *and*

WHEREAS, Jim, a native Washingtonian, (but, inexplicably a New York Yanks apologist!) was well prepared for what he acknowledges was a “serendipitous” career in telecommunications and Internet policy, with an undergraduate degree with distinction from the University of Maryland, a Master’s degree in economics from George Washington University, and a Master’s degree in public administration with high honors from Harvard University; *and*

WHEREAS, Jim began his career as a junior economist at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which was then examining the Bell System’s monopoly of the U.S. phone market. His nine-year stint at the FCC reinforced his interest in communications policy issues, and in 1983, Jim entered the private sector to work as the research manager of a public policy consulting firm. There he co-authored two books and gained first-hand knowledge of the joys of appearing as a witness in several State commission rate cases; *and*

WHEREAS, Six years later, Jim accepted a position at NTIA as its senior economist. In that role, he worked on a variety of issues including universal service, competition, and regulatory reform. During his 24-year tenure at NTIA, he vigorously applied economic analysis to help the agency develop public policy and received a promotion to Chief Economist; *and*

WHEREAS, At NTIA Jim combined his passion for economics with his interest in policy to eliminate the “digital divide” by pioneering research that analyzed data primarily from the U.S. Census Bureau on Americans’ use of computers and the Internet. For many years, he led a team that drafted reports based on that data, including the 2013 edition of NTIA’s Digital Nation report, “[Exploring the Digital Nation: America’s Emerging Online Experience](#).” The report detailed how and why Americans connect to the Internet. Jim was also a valued member of a team assessing the economic and social impact of NTIA’s broadband grants program; *and*

WHEREAS, Among Jim’s most cherished responsibilities was his role as NTIA’s representative at meetings of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and as the erudite author and occasionally semi-humorous presenter of the triannual “NTIA Report” (a/k/a “News from the National Woebegone”) for more than 20 years; *and*

WHEREAS, While Jim’s NTIA’s co-workers referred to him as the “donut guy” because he frequently treated them to donuts (stating “I hate to eat alone”), his NARUC friends also knew him as a kind and generous colleague who had a smile and good word for everyone (but, no donuts!); *and*

WHEREAS, Jim holds the NARUC Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications record for being the most consistent voter with a perfect record of abstentions (or was it presents?); *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at their 2014 Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, D.C., extends congratulations and thanks to Jim McConnaughey for his years of dedicated public service to NARUC and the citizens of the United States, along with our encouragement and best wishes for success in any future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors February 12, 2014