

***Resolution Honoring James A. Burg***

**WHEREAS**, The Honorable James A. Burg has served with distinction as a member of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission since January 6, 1987; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg is a native South Dakotan with a deep and abiding love for his native State; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg earned his undergraduate degree from South Dakota State University in 1963; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg has farmed, ranched, and operated small businesses in South Dakota at various times during his life; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg served in the South Dakota National Guard for many years, ending his service with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg has had a long and distinguished career in public service; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg served in the South Dakota House of Representatives from 1975 until 1984, and in the South Dakota Senate from 1985 through 1986; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg was elected to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in 1986, and reelected to the Commission in 1992 and 1998; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg was elected Chairman of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in 1989 and 1997; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg has been extraordinarily active in the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners during his career as a member of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, having served as the Chairman of the Committee on Electricity, Chairman of the Washington Action Committee, a member of the Board of Directors, a member of the Committee on Electricity, and a member of the Subcommittee on Administration; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg has also served as President of the Mid-American Regulatory Commissioners and a member of the Advisory Board of the Electric Power Research Institute; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg is deeply devoted to his wife, Bernice, and their five children, one of whom is currently on active duty in Iraq; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg's agricultural roots have caused him to have a deep and abiding love for the environment that has permeated his actions as a public official and as a member of NARUC; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg has an unfailing and genuine devotion to the best interests of his constituents in South Dakota and to the people of the entire country, causing him to become a recognized leader in the field of utility regulation and a strong spokesman for the causes in which he believes; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg, with his strong military heritage and great respect for those willing to serve in our armed forces, may be the only active member of NARUC that has ever been aboard an aircraft carrier at a time when it was on active duty; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg's interest in and love for the outdoors has led him to attempt to improve relations between the Committee on Electricity and the Staff Subcommittee through the institution of post-meeting hiking expeditions, which are only open to truly important members of both bodies and at which all genuinely momentous issues are finally and definitively resolved; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg is a dedicated and loyal friend willing to go above and beyond the call of duty to assist his NARUC colleagues, having agreed to travel to Washington, D.C., in order to testify before a congressional committee on September 11, 2001, for the purpose of saving a colleague from having to make the trip, thereby causing him to be stranded in our nation's capital for the better part of a week while his colleague remained at home; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg, has provided a special brand of humor and thoughtfulness akin to that which one would expect from Garrison Keillor (in the event that he was a South Dakotan) in order to bring harmony to a Committee on Electricity challenged by the sometimes divergent views of its members; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Burg, despite a somewhat serious surface appearance, has had to work hard to live down his reputation as a party animal, particularly at events involving dancing and the wearing of togas; *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 its sincere appreciation to Commissioner Burg for his outstanding public service and conveys to him its best wishes for all his future endeavors.

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