

Resolution Honoring Larry "Mr. Digital Divide" Irving

WHEREAS, In June of 1993, Clarence "Larry" Irving strode down the Hill onto the regulatory scene as Commerce Assistant Secretary and NTIA Administrator; and

WHEREAS, He teamed with Ron Brown to head up the Administration's new National Information Infrastructure ("NII") initiative on telecommunications issues, with special attention to universal service. He quickly partnered with NARUC and the States to:

- * Conduct 5 pioneering universal service hearings around the country (to the cries of "where's Andy Barrett?");

- * Work collaboratively with NARUC's Joan Smith and the new NII Advisory Council (to the cries of "where's Larry?");

- * Help advise Congress, the Federal-State Universal Service Joint Board, and the FCC as to how to best modernize universal service for the Information Age; and

- * Spirit away Kathy Brown to the NTIA Policy Office under the nose of Reed Hundt.

WHEREAS, Larry was a well-known and regular participant at

NARUC every year (and most meetings) from 1983 to the entire decade of the 1990s, and those who were there can never forget among his many contributions:

- * His memorable appearances before the Telecommunications and Communications Committee (where Hortense the Turtle and Jim Valvano's dog became immortalized);

- * The release of the three landmark NTIA "Falling Through the Net" studies documenting telephone, computer, and Internet penetration and the "digital divide" in U.S. households;

- * On his watch, the great rapport and working relationships between NTIA and NARUC over the years, including, for example, with cousin Patricia Worthy, Sharon, Bob Rowe, Julia, Laska, Joan, Lisa Rosenblum, and the dean of all NARUC Commissioners, Bruce Hagen; and

WHEREAS, He distinguished himself for his leadership and a rare mind that can work as fast as he talks; the sartorial standards he set for government and businesses alike; his intellectual curiosity and enthusiasm for new technologies and their social uses that affects all who hear him; and his faithful

dedication to public service; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners ("NARUC"), convened in its 2000 Summer Meeting in Los Angeles, California, and the NARUC Committee on Telecommunications, and their respective staffs, extend congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Assistant Secretary Irving on his dedicated and productive service to the citizens of the United States. Warmest wishes for every continued success in his new endeavor, continuing his Magic touch.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, July 26, 2000.