

Resolution Regarding Pooling

WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has ordered the implementation of number pooling throughout the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) in order to conserve telephone numbers and to use them more efficiently; and

WHEREAS, The FCC originally mandated that number pooling should be implemented only in the top 100 Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Areas (CMSAs) covered by the NANP because those are the areas where telecommunications competition is most likely to develop; and

WHEREAS, Number pooling has been deployed, both through delegation authority and through FCC orders, originally within the top 100 CMSAs covered by the NANP on an area code by area code basis; and

WHEREAS, By its Fourth Report and Order in the Numbering Optimization Docket, the FCC reduced the number of rate centers in which pooling is mandatory, from those within the top CMSAs to those within the top 100 MSAs; and

WHEREAS, In delegating to the States authority to implement area code relief, the FCC found that States have better knowledge of local circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Number pooling is considered to be the most effective number conservation tool in preserving the lives of existing area codes; and

WHEREAS, Many area codes include territory that falls within a

top 100 MSA as well as territory that falls outside a top 100 MSA; and

WHEREAS, In many area codes with territory both in a top 100 MSA and outside a top 100 MSA, pooling has been implemented in all rate centers; and

WHEREAS, In many rate centers located entirely outside a top 100 MSA, two or more carriers are offering service to customers and are using telephone numbers to provide that service; and

WHEREAS, Telephone numbers in rate centers entirely outside the top 100 MSAs are being stranded in carriers' inventories because the FCC does not currently require carriers to pool numbers in those rate centers; and

WHEREAS, In its recent Fourth Report and Order in the Numbering Optimization Docket, the FCC has specifically exempted from the pooling requirement rural telephone companies and Tier III CMRS providers that have not received a request to provide local number portability, and carriers that are the only service provider receiving numbering resources in a given rate center; and

WHEREAS, Not all States fit the demographics of the FCC's national pooling plan and, as a result, are shut out of, or reduced to marginal participation in, pooling and its subsequent benefits; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners (NARUC) convened

in its July 2003 Summer Meetings in Denver, Colorado, urges the FCC to reconsider its decision to limit number pooling to the top 100 MSAs; and be it further,

RESOLVED, That NARUC urges the FCC to allow States to implement number pooling, without petition to the FCC, in all rate centers as each State sees a necessity, regardless of whether a rate center falls within one of the top 100 MSAs, and be it further

RESOLVED, States with delegated authority should not have their pooling authority narrowed; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the NARUC General Counsel is hereby authorized to file and take any action to further the intent of this resolution.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors July 30, 2003