

Resolution Encouraging Regulatory Utility Commissions to Participate in the Supplier Diversity Toolkit Project

WHEREAS, The Utility Marketplace Access Subcommittee (“UMA”) of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”) held a panel presentation on the creation of a Supplier Diversity Toolkit at the 124th Annual NARUC Meeting held in Baltimore, Maryland, as well as during the 125th Annual Meeting held in Orlando, Florida; *and*

WHEREAS, Presentations on the Supplier Diversity Toolkit have been delivered in various forms during each of the NARUC 2013 Regional Conferences; *and*

WHEREAS, There has not, to date, been a national empirical assessment of the state of supplier diversity across all sectors of the utilities industry, nor a comprehensive data source that shares the supplier diversity landscape and best practices across the industry and nation; *and*

WHEREAS, UMA believes that efforts to encourage and monitor supplier diversity across the utility industry are vital to creating and maintaining a competitive, robust and diverse supplier base for the utility industry and an increased diverse small business sector for the nation; *and*

WHEREAS, It is recognized that the advancement of the United States utility critical infrastructure provides opportunities for State commissions and utilities to promote greater diversity amongst entities that provide products and services to utilities across all sectors; *and*

WHEREAS, It is critical that utilities, the State commissions that regulate them, and interested stakeholders work in collaboration to gather data on the state of supplier diversity in the utilities industry and share that data and best practices to enhance understanding of supplier diversity and its economic benefits in our industry and to assist diverse suppliers and utility companies in their efforts to increase opportunities for diverse businesses within the utility industry; *and*

WHEREAS, The UMA Subcommittee realizes that input from all sectors of the utilities industry is crucial to the design of the Toolkit and that a Task Force comprising associations and commission representatives can best provide this input; *and*

WHEREAS, The UMA Subcommittee has asked the National Utilities Diversity Council (NUDC), a national non-profit organization, to work with the Supplier Diversity Task Force, and to serve as primary project manager. In addition, to conduct research and share best practices to encourage diversity in the utilities industry, the UMA Subcommittee has asked the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI) to collaborate on the data collection and writing of the toolkit; *and*

WHEREAS, The UMA Subcommittee has asked, also encouraged, and requests that when developing and managing the Toolkit, NUDC and NRRI seek the expertise and assistance of the various industry organizations including, but not limited to, CTIA – The Wireless Association, Edison Electric Institute, National Association of Water Companies, National Cable Television Association, Supplier Diversity Development Council, Walter Kaitz Foundation, American Gas Association and US Telecom; *and*

WHEREAS, All regulatory utility commissions should actively encourage participation from the regulated utilities in their States and regions to share data to allow for a comprehensive national overview of the state of supplier diversity across the utilities industry and the creation of a toolkit document that can be used by regulators, companies and suppliers to increase supplier diversity nationally; *and*

WHEREAS, There are several benefits in sharing best practices in supplier diversity from every State or region, including a demonstration of commitment to reflecting the totality of the ratepayer profile in the work of regulated utilities as a national, coordinated effort; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 125th Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, supports the creation of a supplier diversity toolkit and encourages participation from all commissions and regulated utilities in creating this national document.

*Sponsored by the Utility Marketplace Access Subcommittee
Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors November 19, 2013
Adopted by the NARUC Committee of the Whole November 20, 2013*