

Resolution Honoring Barry T. Smitherman

WHEREAS, Barry Smitherman was appointed in July of 2011 to the Railroad Commission of Texas, which oversees the oil, natural gas, coal mining, intrastate pipeline, and gas utility distribution industries in Texas, by Governor Rick Perry, and subsequently won reelection in 2012 for a two-year unexpired term; *and*

WHEREAS, Barry served as Chairman and Commissioner of the RRC; *and*

WHEREAS, Barry Smitherman was appointed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, which oversees the Texas electricity and landline telecommunications industries in Texas, in April of 2007 and was promoted to Chairman in November of 2007. Barry served as PUCT Commissioner or Chairman from 2007-2011; *and*

WHEREAS, As Chairman of the PUCT, Barry sat on the ERCOT Board of Directors, served as Vice President of the Regional State Committee of the Southwest Power Pool, and served two terms on the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Electricity Advisory Committee (EAC). While on the DOE EAC, he was the Chairman of the Transmission Subcommittee; *and*

WHEREAS, Barry served as the Chairman of the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners Gas Committee and ERE, serving under the leadership of New Jersey Commissioner Jeanne Fox; *and*

WHEREAS, While Commissioner Smitherman was at the PUCT, he was the principal regulatory mover behind the 3,000 miles of Competitive Renewal Energy Zones (CREZ) lines and the implementation of the nodal market design at ERCOT, and was principally responsible for the dramatic reduction in the Texas Universal Services Fee tax, which was a fee/tax levied on every Texas landline phone customer; *and*

WHEREAS, Barry Smitherman was a very strong supporter of competitive electric markets while serving on the PUCT and was once described by the Dallas Morning News as "being on a mission to save deregulation." While at the Southwest Power Pool Regional State Committee, he was one of the original authors of the Synergistic Planning Project Team, which designed the "Highway/Byway" methodology for funding large scale transmission within the SPP.

WHEREAS, Barry Smitherman has spoken internationally, nationally and State-wide on energy issues; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Smitherman serves as a board member of Southern States Energy Board (SSEB); *and*

WHEREAS, Barry has received numerous awards for his public service including the "State Leadership" award from the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) and the "Energy Public Service" award from the Texas Mining and Reclamation Association (TMRA); *and*

WHEREAS, Barry T. Smitherman was a prosecutor with the Harris County District Attorney's Office; *and*

WHEREAS, He served as head of the Houston public finance offices of both Lazard Freres and J.P. Morgan, and managing director and national head of the tax-exempt bond department at Bank One; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Smitherman is a former adjunct professor of public administration at the University of St. Thomas in Houston; *and*

WHEREAS, Smitherman is a member of the State Bar of Texas; *and*

WHEREAS, Barry graduated with a BBA summa cum laude from Texas A&M University, with a J.D. from The University of Texas School of Law, and with an MPA from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, where he was the first recipient of the Joel Leff Fellowship in Political Economy; *and*

WHEREAS, Barry grew up in Highlands, Texas, a working class neighborhood on the east side of Houston. He is a proud product of Texas public schools having graduated in the top 10 of his class from Ross Sterling High School in Baytown. Barry played for championship teams while at Baytown Sterling, and the teams success's were directly attributable to his "extraordinary contributions while seated at the end of the bench"; *and*

WHEREAS, Barry and his wife of 28 years, Marijane, have four wonderful children and live in Austin, Texas; *and*

WHEREAS, Barry T. Smitherman is a fourth generation Texan and is born to shoot and talk straight; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2015 Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, D.C., extends their sincere gratitude to Barry T. Smitherman for his years of service to NARUC, the citizens of Texas, and the United States, and convey their best wishes to him in his future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Committee on Gas

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors February 18, 2015