

Resolution Honoring Commissioner John Burke

WHEREAS, Commissioner John Burke, after serving nearly fifteen years as a Member of the Vermont Public Service Board, has decided not to seek reappointment for another six years and will instead pursue other activities, including his role as a grandfather; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Burke, despite having majored in Religion at Dartmouth, elected to pursue the dark side and become a lawyer; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Burke, after much thought and internal deliberation, chose to attend the Boston University School of Law so he could further his education by attending as many Red Sox games as humanly possible; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Burke practiced law in Castleton, Vermont for years, was active in many state and community issues, and has further contributed by teaching business law at Castleton State College; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Burke decided to expand his public service role by being appointed a Judge, but then-Governor Howard Dean had better ideas, and appointed Commissioner Burke to the Public Service Board; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Burke has been an active member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Telecommunications Committee and served as Chair of the Committee for three years; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Burke has been a strong advocate of net neutrality, sponsoring three NARUC resolutions stressing the importance of an open internet and more recently highlighting the need to rely upon Title II of the Communications Act as a jurisdictional basis, a position subsequently adopted by the President and, apparently, by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Burke has also supported policies to ensure fair competition among services, including advocacy on behalf of NARUC with the northeast Congressional delegation in support of number portability; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Burke was appointed to the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, in which capacity he actively supported the importance of ensuring that rural areas of the country had access to equivalent telecommunications services to those in urban areas, as well as advocating the Joint Board's support for extending universal service support to broadband, a position the FCC took another four years to adopt; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Burke has also been a member of, and State Chair of, the Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations, where the state members have consistently sought to have the FCC adjust separations requirements to reflect the changes in the nature of telecommunications traffic over time; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Burke has also served on the NARUC Board of Directors for several years; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Burke was fortunate to regularly moderate panels during the coveted Wednesday morning time period at NARUC, examples of which include a riveting 2002 panel on pole attachments that was attended by only one Commissioner, Paul Kjellander, who slept through most of it; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Burke was an eager participant in NARUC's international programs, including the Vermont Public Service Board partnerships with the Republics of Macedonia and Georgia, visiting the former first and the latter two times, although the fact that, after the first visit, Russia invaded Georgia and the Government of Georgia decided to relocate the regulatory commission from the capital to a smaller city 255 kilometers away appear to be merely coincidences; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Burke, as a lifetime Vermonter, is an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox and Boston Bruins, yet for some mysterious reason, he supports the New York Giants as well; *and*

WHEREAS, With his retirement, Commissioner Burke will no longer be forced to make a choice between attending the NARUC annual meeting and sitting in the cold and snowy woods hoping a deer will walk by; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Burke will have more time to spend at horse races, even though he will no longer be able to print out the racing sheets in the NARUC workroom; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Burke will be able to spend more time with his wife Maureen, who is also retiring, although it is possible that she will shortly be encouraging him to spend more time hunting and attending horse races; *and*

WHEREAS, NARUC and its federal agency counterparts will miss Commissioner Burke's leadership, advocacy on extending robust broadband deployment to all consumers, support for fair competition, and numerous humorous anecdotes and witticisms; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2015 Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, D.C., extend their gratitude to Commissioner Burke for his service to NARUC, the state of Vermont, and telecommunications (including broadband) consumers.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors February 18, 2015