

Resolution in Support of DOE's Efforts to Upgrade Lighting and Appliance Energy Efficiency Standards

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) has a long history of supporting lighting and appliance energy efficiency standards, most recently through resolutions adopted in July 1997 and July 1996, because of the benefits energy efficiency standards provide to energy consumers, energy utility companies, and society as a whole; *and*

WHEREAS, Lighting and appliance energy efficiency standards are among the most cost effective means of achieving energy efficiency, leading to reduced energy bills for residential and business consumers, pollution reduction and job growth; *and*

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) estimates that, from 1990 to 2000, existing lighting and appliance energy efficiency standards are expected to result in accumulated savings of 3.8 quads of primary energy (i.e., energy input consumed at generation plants) with a benefit/cost ratio of 4.2; *and*

WHEREAS, According to DOE, for the year 2000 alone, existing appliance standards will reduce emissions by 29 million tons of carbon, 286,000 tons of nitrous oxides and 385,000 tons of sulfur dioxide; *and*

WHEREAS, The DOE budget requests for FY2000 and FY2001 for lighting and appliance standards will permit DOE to complete the rulemaking for lighting and appliance standards, including four of the largest potential energy savers; namely, clothes washers, fluorescent lamp ballasts, water heaters, residential central air conditioners and heat pumps; *and*

WHEREAS, These four priority rules have the potential to save from 2.6 to 30.2 additional quads of primary energy from 2003 to 2030 cumulatively, depending on the efficiency level set, as estimated by DOE; *and*

WHEREAS, Such energy savings will eliminate millions of tons of power plant emissions, reduce peak demand in many parts of the United States, and mitigate the need for siting additional power plants; *and*

WHEREAS, Updated fluorescent lamp ballast, water heater and clothes washer standards could save consumers as much as \$28 billion (1997 dollars) cumulatively between 2003 and 2030, according to estimates by the DOE and the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, while an updated residential air conditioning standard could add billions of dollars of as-yet-unestimated additional savings; *and*

WHEREAS, Many utilities and their ratepayers have invested substantial sums over many years through demand-side management and market transformation programs in promoting the adoption of energy efficient technologies including electronic ballasts,

high-efficiency clothes washers, high-efficiency water heaters and high-efficiency residential central air-conditioners and heat pumps; *and*

WHEREAS, Updated national standards for fluorescent lamp ballasts, residential water heaters, residential clothes washers and residential central air conditioners and heat pumps will allow limited consumer and utility resources for energy efficiency programs to be redirected to other opportunities; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its 1999 Summer Meeting in San Francisco, California, urges the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to promulgate and implement an updated national standard for fluorescent lamp ballasts at energy efficiency performance levels generally achieved by electronic ballast technology; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC urges DOE to promulgate and implement updated national standards for gas-fired and electric residential water heaters at the higher efficiency performance levels made possible by cost-effective enhancements to existing conventional technology; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC urges DOE to promulgate and implement an updated national standard for residential clothes washers at efficiency performance levels achieved by horizontal-axis clothes washer technology and vertical axis clothes washers meeting similar energy efficiency performance levels; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC urges the DOE to promulgate and implement updated national standards for residential central air conditioners and heat pumps, and that standards be developed for all other air conditioners; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC supports future year DOE budgets for national energy efficiency standards sufficient to complete rulemakings for major lighting and appliance standards such as standards for fluorescent lamp ballasts, residential water heaters, residential clothes washers, residential central air-conditioners and heat pumps, and all other air conditioners.

*Sponsored by the Committees on Energy Resources and Environment and Electricity
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors July 23, 1999*