

Resolution on Carbon Capture and Storage

WHEREAS, The United States Congress and the Administration of President Barack Obama are considering climate legislation aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050; *and*

WHEREAS, Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that occurs naturally in the environment as a result of biological processes; *and*

WHEREAS, Carbon dioxide is released during combustion of any carbon-containing material, including coal, natural gas, oil and wood, all of which exist in abundance in the United States and are foundational in our nation's energy economy; *and*

WHEREAS, The Congress is contemplating legislation to address the threat of global climate change, it is prudent and appropriate to allow for the cost-effective storage of carbon dioxide in geologic formations as an alternative to its release into the air; *and*

WHEREAS, Carbon dioxide can be a useful commodity to the citizens of the United States of America, such as its value in enhancing the recovery of oil and natural gas; *and*

WHEREAS, Pursuing all reasonable options for reducing greenhouse emissions will be required in order to meet any federally mandated targets while also minimizing the adverse economic effects; *and*

WHEREAS, The economies of individual States and of the United States as a whole are currently, and will continue to be, dependent on electricity generated from plants burning coal and natural gas and that emit carbon dioxide; *and*

WHEREAS, Storage of carbon dioxide in geological formations could be an effective and feasible strategy for managing carbon-dioxide emissions over long periods of time which benefits the environment and citizens alike; *and*

WHEREAS, Widespread deployment of CCS will require the resolution of a wide range of policy, legal and regulatory issues related to the industry structure for CO₂ transportation and storage, storage safety and integrity, and liability; *and*

WHEREAS, Unanswered industry structure issues include ownership arrangement for pipelines and storage facilities, and access and pricing policies that will apply to pipelines and storage facilities; *and*

WHEREAS, The liability issue for CCS has both an operational component that includes the safety and environmental risks associated with CO₂ capture, transport and injection, and a post injection component that involves the long term storage once injected in a geological formation; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2009 Summer Committee Meetings in Seattle, Washington,

supports each State that is developing policies supporting the injection and underground storage of carbon dioxide while addressing issues such as property rights, permitting, trust funds to administer programs, and liability; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC urges Congress and the Administration to act in close partnership with State governments, and to not interfere with State sovereignty with respect to ownership of pore space; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC urges Congress and the Administration to support and supplement State policies to capture, transport, inject, store underground, and withdraw carbon dioxide for beneficial reuse or sale; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC strongly urges Congress and the Administration to support State efforts to store or find beneficial uses for carbon dioxide emissions by providing adequate funding and incentives for research into carbon capture and storage technologies and underground storage capacities.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity and Energy Resources and the Environment
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, July 22, 2009*