

### ***Resolution Supporting State Regulation of Hydraulic Fracturing***

**WHEREAS**, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners has observed with great concern the current debate in Congress over the appropriate method for regulating the use of hydraulic fracturing to complete oil and gas wells; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Hydraulic fracturing is a proven technology with a long history of environmentally safe use in the completion of oil and gas wells; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The oil and gas producing States regulate hydraulic fracturing as a component of their regulatory programs for the drilling, completion, operation, and plugging of oil and gas wells; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The reservoirs that produce oil and gas are highly variable geologically and separated geographically across the oil and gas producing States such that State regulatory agencies are best suited by local expertise and experience to effectively regulate hydraulic fracturing; *and*

**WHEREAS**, State regulatory agencies are the most appropriate regulatory bodies to provide oversight and protection of hydrologically and environmentally sensitive localities as they relate to hydraulic fracturing; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The regulation of hydraulic fracturing under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act would add burdensome and unnecessary regulatory requirements to the drilling and completion of oil and gas wells, thereby increasing costs of producing domestic natural gas resources without any ancillary benefit to public health, safety or the environment; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The increased cost of producing domestic natural gas resources will reduce domestic supplies of natural gas, increase utility prices, and other costs to consumers, reduce tax and royalty revenues for local, State, and federal governments; and increase the nation's dependence on foreign energy imports; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) conducted a survey of oil and gas producing States, which found that there were no known cases of ground water contamination associated with hydraulic fracturing, and set forth its opposition to federal regulation of hydraulic fracturing under the underground injection control program in Resolution 09.011, dated January 7, 2009, "Urging Congress Not to Remove Exemption of Hydraulic Fracturing from Provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act;" *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 continued jurisdiction of the States to conserve and properly regulate oil and gas production in their unique geological and geographical circumstances.

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*Sponsored by the Committee on Gas*

*Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, July 22, 2009*