

Resolution Supporting the Value of Water Campaign in February 2014

WHEREAS, Clean and safe water is a fundamental part of our daily lives, protecting public health, ensuring public safety and supporting our economy; *and*

WHEREAS, Water infrastructure, the system of collection, treatment, and distribution facilities that provide clean and safe water is aging and in need of investment to make critical repairs or replace equipment; *and*

WHEREAS, The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), which provides an annual “infrastructure report card,” gave drinking water and waste water ‘D’ grades for 2013 (<http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/grades/>); *and*

WHEREAS, It is estimated that there is one water main break every two minutes in the United States, and that the nation must invest \$1.3 trillion in repairs and upgrades over the next 25 years; *and*

WHEREAS, A majority of Americans believe clean and safe water is of vital importance to the nation, just 40% hold the same view of water infrastructure, and a majority of adults incorrectly believe our water infrastructure is in good condition; *and*

WHEREAS, The Value of Water Coalition, a group comprising leading organizations responsible for ensuring the safety, reliability and sustainability of our nation’s water, on October 1, 2013, announced the launch of a new campaign to inform Americans about the value of water and the challenges facing our water infrastructure; *and*

WHEREAS, The Value of Water campaign is anchored by the website www.thevalueofwater.org, which serves as the campaign’s hub, aggregating the latest news and information on water-related issues, and distributing content and information about water and water infrastructure through digital and social media, videos, infographics and Slideshare decks; *and*

WHEREAS, This effort marks the first time such a broad coalition of water utilities, non-profit water associations and water services and technology companies has come together to collectively work towards educating the public on the importance of delivering clean, safe and reliable water to and from every home and community, and to help ensure quality water service for future generations; *and*

WHEREAS, The Value of Water coalition provides a communications platform for organizations and individuals throughout the industry to coalesce around raising awareness of the importance of water infrastructure and the need to invest in infrastructure; *and*

WHEREAS, State regulators can play a important role in educating consumers and ratepayers about utility issues and, specifically, the NARUC Water Committee aims to increase awareness and understanding about the issues surrounding uses and reuses of water and wastewater; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its 2014 Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, D.C., encourages its members to engage with the Value of Water campaign; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC members work to utilize the materials developed by the Value of Water campaign to further educate water users in our respective geographic regions as to the role of water infrastructure in ensuring that our water is clean and safe and the importance of investing to repair and replace infrastructure when needed.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Water and the Committee on Critical Infrastructure
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, February 12, 2014*