

***Resolution Supporting Western Governors Association Drought Forum Initiative***

**WHEREAS**, The U.S. has experienced unprecedented droughts in recent years with the Western States being hit particularly hard by drought in 2012 and 2014; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Some predict that dry conditions will become more common across central North America and the U.S. Southwest; *and*

**WHEREAS**, It is important for States to identify ways to avoid or mitigate the impact of drought on communities, economies, and the environment in the future; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Governor Brian Sandoval (NV), Chairman of the Western Governors' Association (WGA), has created the Western Governors' Drought Forum for States and industry to share case studies and best practices on drought policy, preparedness and management; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The goal of the regional dialogue on drought is to identify ways to avoid or mitigate the impact of drought on communities, economies, and the environment, the Western Governors and the participants in the Drought Forum are identifying best practices and case studies of local, State and federal policies and industry business improvements designed to manage limited water supplies during drought; *and*

**WHEREAS**, WGA has created a Website to serve as an authoritative resource of documents and information on drought mitigation for policymakers and industry; *and*

**WHEREAS**, State commissions are uniquely positioned to assist Governors and industry in indentifying best practices and case studies, encouraging the adoption of programs to mitigate impact and educating consumers on changes to their service and ways they can help save water; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Droughts are not unique to Western States; they also afflict States in the Eastern U.S., such as Florida and Georgia, and the lessons learned and best practices developed by Western States can be helpful to other States that experience droughts; *now, therefore be it*

**RESOLVED**, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2015 Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, D.C., endorses the WGA Drought Forum and urges NARUC members to cooperate with the forum in identifying relevant case studies and best practices on drought policy, preparedness and management to mitigate the impact of drought on communities, economies, and the environment.

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*Sponsored by the Committee on Water*

*Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors February 18, 2015*