

***Resolution Supporting U.S. Department of Energy Funding for Research, Outreach,
and Technical Assistance on Utility Restructuring, Energy Markets, and Regulatory
Reform***

WHEREAS, The nation's electric and gas industries are in the midst of fundamental transformations to greater competition, customer choice, and regulatory reform involving hundreds of billions of dollars of revenues annually; *and*

WHEREAS, Most of the key decisions regarding the future structure of these industries, the emerging energy markets, retail sales, and consumer and public protections must be made by public decision-makers at the state level; *and*

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) program support for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and utility restructuring research and outreach has greatly strengthened the ability of state utility commissions to address effectively the restructuring of the electric and gas industries, including complex challenges in such areas as reliability, taxation, rate design, market power, public benefits, and environmental and consumer protection; *and*

WHEREAS, These DOE programs have been conducted on a positive and cooperative basis with state utility commissions and other state agencies, and have focused assistance on those issues that are of greatest concern and greatest benefit to the states; *and*

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives and the Senate are now considering legislation which could provide funding through DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to conduct utility restructuring research and to provide outreach and technical assistance to the states on these issues; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its 1998 Summer Meetings held in Seattle, Washington, hereby reiterates its support for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, including its utility restructuring research and state technical assistance activities; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC supports Federal funding for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and its utility restructuring research and state technical activities at levels consistent with those recently adopted by the Senate's Energy and Water Development Subcommittee on Appropriations (\$4.0 million for FY 1999); *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That if the Congress is unable to provide \$4.0 million for these activities in FY 1999, a level of funding should be provided that would enable the U.S. Department of Energy to implement effectively these important programs for the benefit of the States, utilities, and utility ratepayers.

*Sponsored by the Committees on Energy Resources and Electricity
Adopted July 1998*