

VI. TELECOMMUNICATIONS RESOLUTIONS

TC-4 Resolution Honoring South Dakota Chairman Bob Sahr

WHEREAS, Robert K. Sahr was elected to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission in November of 2001; *and*

WHEREAS, Sensing a stint as a PUC Commissioner was in his future, Bob paid his dues in high school as a member of the back-to-back State champion high school tennis team, graduated with honors from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1989, worked in sales and marketing for Michelin Tire Corporation, and finally earned a law degree from the University of Colorado School of Law where he was selected to Who's Who Among American Law Students; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Sahr is a national leader in protecting consumers and developing telecommunications infrastructure in rural America; *and*

WHEREAS, In 2003, Bob led the effort to pass the South Dakota Do-Not-Call List, which resulted in reducing unwanted calls to more than 270,000 South Dakota landline and cell phones; *and*

WHEREAS, Seeing the great degree of wireless coverage in his sister state to the north, in 2002 Bob spearheaded a first of its kind in the nation program to build more cell phone towers which led to unprecedented investment in new cell tower sites in South Dakota with service coming to many rural communities for the first time; *and*

WHEREAS, Bob strongly supports policies to ensure South Dakotans continue to have access to state of art wire line communications , such as they have in Nebraska, Wyoming, Minnesota and Montana, and was a tireless backer of the successful renomination of Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein to the Federal Communications Commission; *and*

WHEREAS, Seeing hundreds of megawatts of wind power in neighboring Iowa, Commissioner Sahr is a grassroots advocate for wind power and renewable energy and his efforts helped make South Dakota's first major wind farm a reality in rural Hyde County near Highmore; *and*

WHEREAS, Bob was elected chairman of Qwest's Regional Oversight Committee, comprised of regulators in 14 states where Qwest is the dominant local telephone carrier, also elected secretary of the Mid-American Regulatory Conference, and served as an active member of NARUC's Telecommunications Committee – testifying on NARUC's behalf before the US Congress most recently in May of 2006; *and*

WHEREAS, By stepping down, Commissioner Sahr has liberated himself and Telecommunications Committee Chair Tony Clark from having to field the question “Now, tell me again, are you the kid from North Dakota or South Dakota?” *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Sahr’s leadership in MARC broke the “crystal ceiling” for male commissioners seeking advancement opportunities in the iron-handed Thatcher-like tradition of the regional association; *and*

WHEREAS, In his copious free time, Bob also is husband to wife Christine, father to precocious (and cute) daughter Allison, as well as the chair for the local United Way fundraising drive, past president for Oahe Habitat for Humanity, past board member for Countryside Hospice Board and the State Bar of South Dakota Bar Commission, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened in its 2006 Annual Convention in Miami, Florida, extends its sincere appreciation to Commissioner Sahr for his outstanding public service, his consistent good humor, his willingness to testify for the association on short notice, and conveys to him its best wishes for his future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors November 14, 2006

Adopted by the Committee of the Whole November 15, 2006