

Resolution Concerning Broadband Access

WHEREAS, Congress has supported national telecommunications policies that foster investment, advanced services deployment, and technological innovation to promote robust competition in a progressively deregulated environment; *and*

WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission and State Commissions have worked collaboratively to carry out national policies to facilitate competition in the telecommunications industry while promoting universal access to reliable voice services, 911/E911 emergency services, high-speed Internet and advanced telecommunications services; *and*

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) supports policies that promote competition and ensure that consumers are able to exercise choice among voice telecommunications service providers as competitive market forces lessen the need for traditional legacy regulation; *and*

WHEREAS, Consumers and businesses are increasingly using a diversity of providers and technologies to meet their communications needs, including traditionally-regulated wireline common carriers as well as wireless, cable telephony and Internet-based service providers all of which could be offering Voice services using Internet Protocol (VoIP); *and*

WHEREAS, Fostering deployment of and access to broadband service is a Federal and State policy goal and critical to the future of competition in the voice communications market; *and*

WHEREAS, The FCC has adopted principles to encourage broadband deployment and preserve and promote the open and interconnected nature of the public Internet where consumers are entitled to access lawful Internet content of their choice, run applications and subscribe to services of their choice, and connect their choice of legal devices that do not harm the network while it fosters competition among network providers, application and service providers, and content providers; *therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its February 2006 Winter Meetings in Washington, D.C., encourages broadband deployment through a policy that promotes consumer choice in service providers; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That requiring customers to pay for separate “plain old telephone service” as a condition of accessing broadband service will also discourage the deployment and adoption of advanced services as called for under Section 706 of the 1996 Telecommunications Act; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That carriers should remain free to offer bundled services over broadband facilities; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC directs its General Counsel to promote this policy of consumer choice in communications with all relevant agencies, Congress and policymakers at the Federal and State level.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors February 15, 2006