

Resolution Honoring Elliott G. Smith, Iowa Utilities Board Commissioner

WHEREAS, In September 2005, Iowa Utilities Board Commissioner “*OSBMASTD*” Elliott “*Renaissance Man*” G. Smith, completed a stellar run of public service to the citizens of the State of Iowa and of the United States of America; *and*

WHEREAS, In January of 2002, following the defection to industry of Alan “the Senator” Thoms, Governor Thomas J. Vilsack determined to plug the crater in public policy left by his departure by appointing Elliott G. Smith of Des Moines to the Iowa Utilities Board in January 2002 for a term expiring on April 30, 2007; *and*

WHEREAS, Elliott was quick to follow in Alan’s footsteps working hard to fill that void and make his presence quite literally invaluable to the work of the NARUC’s Telecommunications committee, the Ad Hoc Committee on Critical Infrastructure, the NARUC Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service, the North American Numbering Council, the North American Billing and Collection Board of Directors, the NARUC Task Force on Intercarrier Compensation and the national policy debate on a host of critical issues, before again following “The Senator’s” footsteps into the private sector; *and*

WHEREAS, In his copious free time between his full time job as an Iowa Commissioner and his work in the national policy debate, Commissioner Smith served on the Iowa Alliance for Advanced Telecommunications Services, the Governor’s Energy Coordinating Council, the Qwest Regional Oversight Committee, and played golf often enough, according to certain competitors, to almost be dangerous; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Smith has never shied away from taking on the truly difficult (and dangerous) assignments, including such challenges as attending a meeting of the Progress and Freedom Foundation’s Annual Aspen summit openly identified as a regulator, and without benefit of a body guard; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Smith will forever be remembered for his unflappability nominating his Iowa Utilities Board colleague Diane Munns for NARUC’s 1st Vice President after having been recognized by the Chair as “Commissioner Elliot of Montana”, probably because of his close physical resemblance to former Montana Commissioner Bob “Power Point” Rowe; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Smith must take significant credit for the enormous strides in the policy debate on intercarrier compensation shepherding an unruly crowd of interests closer to compromise through his Chairmanship through keen insights, formidable intellect, unwavering commitment to public policy, uniquely articulate capacity for self-expression, unflappable manner (except for that one time with the unrelated “call before you dig resolution”), and (always) good humor, which he consistently maintained no matter how contentious the debate or difficult the issue; *and*

WHEREAS, Elliott “The Enforcer” Smith facilitated the work of the Intercarrier Compensation Task Force, carefully and even handedly orchestrating the ebb and flow of the occasionally

contentious debate by warning two offending participants in his best “father of a grade school child” voice “don’t make me come up there!”; *and*

WHEREAS, Elliott came to NARUC with an impressive roster of experience, having served as a law clerk for the Chief Judge of the U.S. Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, worked as an associate attorney for two civil law firms in Chicago before returning to the State as the legislative liaison and a policy planner for the Iowa Department of Economic Development, acted as vice president of government relations for the Iowa Association of Business and Industry and served as the president of the Iowa Taxpayers Association prior to joining the Board; *and*

WHEREAS, Elliott was considered by commissioners and staff as valued colleague and a good friend, and a man of outstanding character and principle (except on the golf course where he lives by the motto, “If you don’t cheat at golf, you’re only cheating yourself”); *and*

WHEREAS, His associates in NARUC, the industry, and the Iowa board will sorely miss his dedication to public service and vast knowledge and experience on regulatory issues across all industry sectors; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its November 2005 Annual Convention in Indian Wells, California, extends to the Honorable Elliott G. Smith its sincere thanks and appreciation for his dedicated and distinguished service to NARUC and the State of Iowa; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC wishes Commissioner Smith the best of luck and continued success in his future endeavors: Keep 'em in the fairway, Elliott.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors November 15, 2005

Adopted by the NARUC November 16, 2005