

Federal Legislation That Reduces Regulation Of "Two Percent Carriers"

WHEREAS, Two of the goals of the Independent Telecommunications Enhancement Act of 2001, otherwise known as the "Two percent bill" sponsored by Reps. Cubin, Barrett, Pickering and Largent, are to promote deployment of advanced services and foster the development of competition in rural areas by relieving small and mid-sized carriers from federal reporting requirements; and

WHEREAS, NARUC shares the goals of identifying and removing unnecessary regulatory barriers, fostering competition, and maintaining critical reporting requirements and safeguards to promote competition and the public interest; and

WHEREAS, NARUC wholeheartedly supports the goal of H.R. 496 to encourage the deployment of advanced services to all Americans consistent with Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; and

WHEREAS, Appropriate reporting requirements that may promote efficiency, prevent duplication of information sought by States, allow State access to out-of-state data necessary to determine national trends, compare costs to those found in other States, and verify proper distribution and use of universal service funding should continue to be available; and

WHEREAS, On February 21, 2001, NARUC President Brownell, and NARUC Committee Chairs Smith and Svanda sent a letter to Representative Cubin outlining some suggestions of the National Association of Regulatory Utility

Commission (NARUC) concerning H.R. 496; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) convened in its 2001 Winter Meetings in Washington, D. C. reiterates its support of the February 21, 2001, letter from the NARUC leaders to Representative Cubin, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC supports reporting requirements necessary for States to be able to determine national trends, to compare critical investment and expense cost accounts from State-to-State, to verify proper distribution and use of universal service funding, and to track investment in advanced services in response to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC would be pleased to work with the sponsors and all interested parties to offer suggestions to implement the goals of H.R. 496; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC staff is directed to make these positions known to members of Congress and their staff through appropriate means.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, February 28, 2001.