

***Resolution Supporting the Fifth National Drinking Water Symposium  
to be Held in the Year 2009***

**WHEREAS**, Water utilities treat and distribute a resource for which there is no substitute and which directly affects the health and safety of the public and the economic vitality of the communities they serve; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The essential nature of water service requires quality and reliability at a reasonable cost; *and*

**WHEREAS**, In 2005, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) determined that \$277 billion in capital investment would be needed nation wide over the next 20 years to ensure compliance with existing and future regulations; *and*

**WHEREAS**, A September 2007 EPA report “Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure Gap Analysis” estimated that if operation, maintenance, and capital investment remain at current levels, the potential funding shortage for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure could exceed \$500 billion by 2020<sup>1</sup>; *and*

**WHEREAS**, With increased critical infrastructure replacement needs, security costs, environmental costs and more stringent drinking water regulations, water utilities face major challenges over the next several decades, placing more pressure on water utility rates; *and*

**WHEREAS**, In March of 2002, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), the U.S. EPA, the National Association of Water Companies (NAWC), and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) co-sponsored the first National Drinking Water Symposium in St. Petersburg, Florida; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Due to the success of the first Symposium, the event has continued on a bi-annual basis in several locations across the country to allow for an ongoing exchange of information, a sharing of views and a discussion of potential solutions. Therefore, stakeholders are calling for the Fifth National Drinking Water Symposium in 2009 to explore critical, timely issues and to increase public understanding of the value of water and the challenges involved in the provision of safe and adequate supplies; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Related topics slated for a Symposium discussion include the latest regulatory mechanisms deemed as “Best Practices,” integrated water resource management and other efficient water use techniques, water/energy interrelationships and opportunities for enhanced operational efficiencies and carbon footprint reduction, climate change impacts upon water supply, current trends in the financial markets affecting the availability and cost of capital, ratepayer affordability and customer assistance programs, and preparing the work force for the future; *and*

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.epa.gov/nrmrl/pubs/600f07015/600f07015.pdf>

**WHEREAS**, NARUC has a continuing, growing, and mutually beneficial relationship with the U.S. EPA, ASDWA, NAWC, and other drinking water industry stakeholders; *now, therefore be it*

**RESOLVED**, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, believes it is essential that key stakeholders, NARUC, the U.S. EPA, NAWC, and ASDWA, continue to work together to address critical water industry needs in a coordinated and focused effort; *and be it further*

**RESOLVED**, That holding another Symposium of key stakeholders will build upon the momentum initiated in previous years and further our ability to assist State commissions and other stakeholders to ensure that jurisdictional water utilities continue to provide safe and reliable drinking water as cost effectively as possible into the future; *and be it further*

**RESOLVED**, That NARUC co-sponsor the Fifth National Drinking Water Symposium at the Walt Disney World Swan Hotel, Orlando, Florida, October 11-14, 2009 to foster strategic alliances in its ongoing public interest efforts towards a sustainable water supply for all ratepayers.

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*Sponsored by the Committee on Water*

*Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors, November 18, 2008*

*Adopted by the Committee of the Whole, November 19, 2008*