

Resolution Supporting a National Drinking Water Convocation in the year 2001

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**Whereas,** In 1999 during the 25th anniversary year of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U. S. EPA) convened a Futures Forum to evaluate the challenges facing the nation's provision of safe drinking water over the next 25 years; and

**Whereas,** The Futures Forum has called for a continuing dialog on the challenges facing the drinking water industry; and

**Whereas,** Quality water service is essential to life itself, as well as economic development, and there is no effective substitute for water; and

**Whereas,** There are significant infrastructure needs and increasing water quality requirements that will affect the long term operation and viability of water utilities; and

**Whereas,** The capital investment requirements for infrastructure needs of community drinking water systems nationwide range from an estimated \$138 billion (U.S. EPA 1997 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey) to \$360 billion (based on American Water Works Association's 1998 Infrastructure Needs Report) over the next 20 years; and

**Whereas,** The costs are increasing in part due to the need to replace and rehabilitate aging infrastructure and the need to comply with more stringent Safe Drinking Water Act requirements; and

**Whereas,** Drinking water systems are challenged to meet these

needs, while striving to keep rates affordable; and

**Whereas**, Water issues are receiving increased attention from state public utility commissions and other regulatory bodies; and

**Whereas**, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) can make a notable contribution to the development of innovative solutions to the challenges facing the drinking water industry; and

**Whereas**, The NARUC has a continuing, growing relationship with U.S. EPA and the National Association of Water Companies (NAWC) and other drinking water industry stakeholders; and

**Whereas**, To continue providing high quality, safe and reliable water services in the future, it is essential to have the continued cooperation and coordination of the various stakeholders in the drinking water industry; and

**Whereas**, It is essential that key stakeholders, U.S. EPA, NARUC, NAWC and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) work together to address these needs in a coordinated and focused effort; and

**Whereas**, It is believed that holding a Convocation of key stakeholders will further improve our ability to assist state public utility 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;  
*now therefore be it*

**Resolved,** That Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioner ("NARUC"), convened at its July 2000 Summer Meetings in Los Angeles, California, recommends that NARUC co-sponsor a national drinking water convocation in the year 2001 to continue the work begun by U.S. EPA's 25th Anniversary Futures Forum evaluation of drinking water challenges and exploration of initiatives to ensure continuation of reliable drinking water services for the future.

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Sponsored by the Committee on Water

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, July 26, 2000.