

Resolution Honoring William E. Kennard

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**WHEREAS**, William E. Kennard was sworn in as Chairman of the FCC on November 7, 1997 leaving his job as the FCC's General Counsel, the Commission's principal legal advisor and representative in court; and

**WHEREAS**, Before joining the FCC, Kennard was a partner and member of the board of directors of the Washington, DC law firm of Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson, and Hand; and

**WHEREAS**, Although Bill hails from Los Angeles, he was clever enough to stay there only long enough to put in a guest appearance on the Dinah Shore show to straighten out then FCC Chairman Newt Minow, before departing to graduate Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University and to snag a JD from Yale in 1981; and

**WHEREAS**, For those Stateside (and a few Circuit Courts of Appeal) whose opinion of Bill's judgment is sometimes strained by the tortured jurisdictional logic in some recent FCC decisions, one only has to meet Bill's wife - the obviously intelligent, charming and extremely attractive Deborah Diane Kennedy – to have your confidence restored; and

**WHEREAS**, When Congress and the whole telecom world was breathing down the FCC's neck for projected release time of a particular order, Bill Kennard was shocked to discover that people sometimes confused "soon" with "at noon"; and

**WHEREAS**, Bill Kennard, described by one magazine as "a

Democrat with the good looks and elegant style of a TV anchorman", has been called many *many* things since becoming Chairman of the FCC: Newsweek called him "A consumer champion in the digital world . . . [who] . . . is passionate about racial and economic diversity . . . favor[ing] both free markets and regulation;" One Congressman said Bill has "the ability to get people to come out of negotiations, even if they disagree with you, and say you are a fair and honest person;" and some in Congress disagreed a lot; We at NARUC just call Bill "friend;" and

**WHEREAS**, Although we at NARUC "bugged" Bill a lot, he always worked hard to foster and enhance regional and national coordination among regulators - ascending to the chairmanship of the FCC at a particularly challenging stage of federal and State interaction over how we should "reed" and implement the 1996 legislation – and ushered in a closer cooperative federal and State relationship – producing in at least one commentor's judgement – some of the first practical experiments in cooperative federalism to actually benefit the public at large and result in more efficient policy implementation; and

**WHEREAS**, Bill Kennard is committed to making sure that all Americans - no matter where they live, what their age, or what special needs they may have - have access to the technologies that are driving our economy and shaping our society; and

**WHEREAS**, During his Chairmanship, Bill fought to protect consumers in the telecom marketplace – overseeing the passage of strict new rules to protect consumers against

slammers and levying of the largest fine in FCC history against a slammer; and

**WHEREAS,** He also was a champion for competition, believing a robust marketplace will produce better services at lower prices for our nation's consumers; and

**WHEREAS,** As Chairman of the FCC, Bill Kennard made the FCC an example and advocate for telecommunications competition worldwide; and

**WHEREAS,** The broad vision, leadership, dedication, and commitment to excellence that Chairman Kennard brought to the FCC and the NARUC will be greatly missed by his fellow regulators; *now, therefore, be it*

**RESOLVED,** That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, (NARUC) convened in its 2001 Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, DC extend hearty congratulations and its sincere thanks to Commissioner Kennard for his distinguished public service to the United States and NARUC, and conveys its best wishes for his future endeavors.

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