Honorary Resolution for Maurice “Gene” Hand (NE)

WHEREAS, Gene announced, again, that he would hold off on his retirement until late 2016 to handle one more issue or be assigned to one more committee for his Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) Commissioners and to re-assure himself that the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Telecommunications Staff Subcommittee would survive without him; and

WHEREAS, Gene feels he has finally written, rewritten, sponsored, commented on, and tabled the maximum number of resolutions allowed under the NARUC bylaws; and

WHEREAS, When Gene first started attending the Annual National Conference of Regulatory Utility Commission Engineer (NCRUCE) meetings nobody could remember seeing Gene except at the registration desk and the nightly functions wherein some of us finally figured out that Gene’s love of golf was trumpsing his meeting attendance. Gene did eventually start attending meetings and ultimately became the President of the NCRUCE; and

WHEREAS, Gene is well remembered as a member of the singing group, “The Enginerds,” which performed oldies (with lyrics changed to reflect current Telecom issues) at NCRUCE annual meetings, in St Petersburg, Florida and Lansing, Michigan and wherein one person recalls that this singing group was so bad that they were good; and

WHEREAS, At the 2014 NARUC Summer Meetings, Gene proposed a resolution supporting the University of Nebraska Regents’ plan to cover Memorial Stadium, football home to the Cornhuskers, in cardboard. Upon questioning as to why the resolution was relevant, Gene responded, “Because the Cornhuskers always looked better on paper”; and

WHEREAS, At the 2015 NARUC Winter Committee Meetings, Gene proposed a resolution soliciting NARUC member support in securing a website for the Cornhusker football team. When questioned why the Cornhuskers couldn’t secure its own site, Gene stated that, “Nebraska couldn’t string 3 W’s together”; and

WHEREAS, Gene, well known around NARUC circles for his depth of knowledge and great patience, is perhaps lesser known for his prodigious skills in the breeding and racing of greyhounds, and his masterly management of a 5-star Lincoln, Nebraska, bed and breakfast called the Hand Hotel….. where his wife Karen is really the CEO; and

WHEREAS, Gene is perhaps the most generous man in the hospitable land of Lincoln, Nebraska, allowing many a foreigner to overnight at his humble home, offering them food, plenty of drink, and a place to rest after a hard day’s ride, and has carried the same spirit of this Midwestern welcome to new NARUC staffers and Commissioners, offering his expertise in training them in the ways of NARUC; and

WHEREAS, Gene always sits tall in the saddle and is welcome and is invited at any time at all, to ride his pony on over to visit his high plains cousins in “Big Wonderful Wyoming” to sit around the campfire at night and sing sad songs about universal service to the jackalopes; and
WHEREAS, Gene may appear an imposing sight, but to get to know him is to discover a gentle
giant incapable of anger, unless the discussion involves the Huskers losing to the Ohio State
Buckeyes (again), Bo Pellini, USF, or some renegade commissioner from Omaha; and

WHEREAS, Gene started with the Nebraska Public Service Commission in 1976 and has been
the Telecommunications Director since before anyone can remember, but rarely actually uses the
telephone while in the office or at home, preferring instead to use a more old fashioned method of
communication by yelling out to his colleagues/wife, “[Insert last name of person here], you out
there? I need something!,” whereupon whomever has been summoned must walk to wherever
Gene might be to inquire as to whatever Gene might need; and

WHEREAS, With this resolution, Gene joins a long list of notable Nebraskans, including such
greats as Gerald Ford, Johnny Carson, Warren Buffet, Fred Astaire, Buffalo Bill Cody, Henry
Fonda, Bob Gibson, and the acting legend, Marlon Brando, to which Gene perhaps compares
himself, but his friends believe he is perhaps more comparable to Nebraska native Larry the Cable
Guy; and

WHEREAS, As General George S. Patton once said, “We herd sheep, we drive cattle, we lead
people,” and Gene has been a tremendous leader of people during his years at the Nebraska PSC
and within the halls of NARUC, although at times it seems his greatest leadership skill may have
been that of herding, not sheep, but cats; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility
Commissioners, convened at its 2016 Summer Meetings in Nashville, Tennessee, extends its
sincere appreciation to Maurice “Gene” Hand for his many years of public service to the State of
Nebraska and to NARUC and wishes him great success in all his future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on July 27, 2016