

Resolution Concerning Policy Implications of the Evolution of Telecommunications Technology and Markets

WHEREAS, Changes in telecommunications technology, such as the availability of Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), cable modem and wireless access to the Internet and the convergence of packet-switching, Internet protocol and traditional circuit-switched telecommunications, are challenging regulatory and jurisdictional systems and assumptions; *and*

WHEREAS, Availability of voice telecommunications over the Internet as a substitute for toll calling and business telephone systems is presenting immediate challenges to State and federal regulators; *and*

WHEREAS, Increased competition in the toll and local exchange markets, together with the foregoing factors, have created doubt about the viability and applicability of traditional universal service mechanisms, about sufficiency of investment in advanced telecommunications services for rural areas, and about adequacy of service quality, and consumer protection; *and*

WHEREAS, Political and jurisdictional uncertainties have created difficult legal and policy issues in a variety of areas, including jurisdictional separations, access charges and reciprocal compensation; *and*

WHEREAS, Congress has considered a variety of measures to address these technological and market changes, but the impacts of these proposals have been difficult to assess without a comprehensive view; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), assembled in its 2000 Annual Convention in San Diego, California, recommends that a Special Study Committee on the Evolution of Telecommunications Technology and Markets shall be formed, consisting of members of the Telecommunications Committee, the Finance and Technology Committee, and other NARUC Committees, with staff from those committees; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the Special Study Committee in the preparation of its report shall consult with industry stakeholders and representatives of the Federal Communications Commission, Rural Utilities Service and National Telecommunications and Information Administration; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the Special Study Committee shall seek to develop a comprehensive approach to address the new demands upon the existing legal framework created by changes in telecommunications technology and markets; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the Special Study Committee shall report its findings, options and recommendations to the Telecommunications Committee and Finance and Technology Committee at the 2001 Summer Meetings.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Recommended by the Board of Directors

Adopted by the Committee of the Whole, November 15, 2000