

Resolution in Support of U.S. Department of Energy's Efforts to Upgrade National Appliance and Equipment Energy Efficiency Standards

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) has a long history of supporting appliance and equipment energy efficiency standards, including resolutions adopted in July 1996, July 1997, July 1999 and July 2000, because of the benefits energy efficiency standards provide to energy consumers, energy utility companies, and society as a whole; *and*

WHEREAS, Appliance and equipment energy efficiency standards are among the most cost effective means of achieving energy efficiency, leading to reduced energy bills for residential and business consumers, pollution reduction, job growth, improved reliability and reduced demand pressure on energy prices; *and*

WHEREAS, Analysis of U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) estimates indicates that already enacted and adopted national appliance and equipment energy efficiency standards will by 2020 result in a cumulative net savings of \$186 billion for U.S. businesses and consumers and reduce annual electricity use by 341 terawatt hours per year (8% of projected annual electricity use), reduce national primary energy use by 4.2 quads (3.5% of projected primary energy use), reduce peak electricity demand by 120,000 megawatts (12.6% of projected 2020 demand levels), and cut national carbon dioxide emissions by 275 million metric tons; *and*

WHEREAS, The DOE has for the past three years identified completion of new standards for commercial air conditioners and heat pumps, residential furnaces and boilers and electric distribution transformers as "high priorities;" *and*

WHEREAS, The DOE budget requests for FY2005 and future years for appliance and equipment efficiency standards will permit DOE to carry out the rulemakings for the "high priority" standards; *and*

WHEREAS, Analysis of DOE and independent data by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) shows that cost effective upgrades to the three high priority standards could result in net savings for U.S. consumers and businesses of \$40 billion over 20 years and reduce annual electricity consumption by 118 terawatt hours, reduce residential natural gas consumption by 167 billion cubic feet, reduce peak electricity demand by 32,000 megawatts and cut carbon dioxide emissions by 54 million metric tons; *and*

WHEREAS, Federal law required that the still-pending residential furnace standard upgrade be published by 1994 and take effect by 2002 and the still-pending standard for distribution transformers be published by 1996 and take effect by 1999; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its March 2004 Winter Meetings in Washington, D.C., urges the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to expeditiously promulgate and implement new

national standards for commercial air conditioners and heat pumps; residential furnaces and boilers, and; electric distribution transformers that achieve the greatest level of cost-effective energy savings; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC urges DOE to establish an updated national standard for residential furnaces and boilers that takes into account both the equipment's electricity use and its fossil fuel consumption; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC urges DOE to establish a voluntary standard more stringent than the national minimum standard that is designed to be cost-effective in cold climates and which cold weather States may elect to implement in place of the national minimum; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC supports future year DOE budgets for national energy efficiency standards sufficient to complete the DOE's "high priority" rulemakings and to catch up on the backlog of overdue DOE rulemakings.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors March 10, 2004*