

Resolution Supporting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense Initiative

WHEREAS, Since only one percent of the Earth's water is available for human use, managing supplies is a growing concern in the United States; *and*

WHEREAS, Between 1950 and 2000, the U.S. population nearly doubled, but the public demand for water more than tripled and communities across the country are facing both supply and infrastructure challenges; *and*

WHEREAS, This increased demand has put additional stress on water supplies and distribution systems, threatening both human health and the environment; *and*

WHEREAS, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has launched the WaterSense initiative to make it easy for American consumers and businesses to save water and protect the environment by establishing water efficiency standards; *and*

WHEREAS, WaterSense is partnering with (i) irrigation professionals and certification programs to promote water-efficient irrigation practices, and (ii) with manufacturers, retailers and distributors and utilities to bring WaterSense products to the marketplace and make it easy to purchase high-performing water-efficient products through identification with the WaterSense label; *and*

WHEREAS, The majority of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) member commissions are charged with protecting the public interest by balancing the needs of both utilities and rate payers; *and*

WHEREAS, One effective way to reduce the cost of utility service is through increased efficiency and conservation; *and*

WHEREAS, State Commissions are uniquely positioned to encourage the adoption of programs and offering of products that will promote water efficiency; *and*

WHEREAS, WaterSense seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by making water-efficient products the preferred choice among consumers to preserve water supplies for future generations, reduce utility bills, and protect the environment; a goal that NARUC's member commissions share; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2008 Summer Meetings in Portland, Oregon, directs that NARUC join EPA's WaterSense partnership and support appropriate EPA and Congressional efforts to encourage water efficiency; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC will encourage its member commissions to also join or support the WaterSense initiative.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Water and Committee on Consumer Affairs
Adopted by the Board of Directors July 23, 2008*