

## **Resolution Concerning Electronic Redlining**

**WHEREAS,** The Communications Act of 1934 has a major policy goal of making available a rapid, efficient, Nation-wide, and world-wide communications service at reasonable charges; and

**WHEREAS,** The promise of infrastructure development and the information highway should be available equally to all Americans regardless of race, income or geographic location; and

**WHEREAS,** Electronic redlining is defined as the willful exclusion of a geographic area from the deployment of advanced telecommunications services on the basis of rural proximity, ethnicity, race, or income of the residents in that area; and

**WHEREAS,** A Petition has been filed with the FCC by the Consumer Federation of America (CFA) that contains a study alleging that regional Bell Operating Companies are engaging in electronic redlining and building an information highway that could bypass low income, minority, and rural communities; and

**WHEREAS,** The study examined video dial-tone applications submitted to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) by Ameritech, Bell Atlantic, PacTel and US West; and

**WHEREAS,** The affected Bell Operating Companies (BOCs) have filed opposition to the Petition stating that electronic redlining does not exist in their service territories; and

**WHEREAS,** Other Bell Operating Companies (BOCs) and Local Exchange Companies (LECs) are also in the process of planning or conducting trials involving advanced telecommunications services; and

**WHEREAS,** Senator Ernest Hollings is considering adding an amendment to S. 1822 that would prohibit electronic redlining; and

**WHEREAS,** H.R. 3636 contains language that prohibits discrimination in the offering of video dialtone services; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Executive Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its 1994 Summer Meetings in San Diego, California, adopts a policy that opposes electronic redlining; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** Although NARUC has not conducted a comprehensive analysis to review the accuracy of the CFA study, NARUC supports the underlying sentiment that the benefits of advanced telecommunications should be available to all citizens across the country, consistent with the public convenience and necessity; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** NARUC also supports the efforts of S. 1822 and H.R. 3636 to prohibit illegal discrimination in the offering of advanced

telecommunications services; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the NARUC General Counsel file this resolution in the appropriate forums to further this recommendation.

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Sponsored by the Committee on Communications  
Adopted July 27, 1994  
Reported NARUC Bulletin, No. 32-1994, pp. 1-2