

Resolution Honoring Commissioner Kevin Wright of Illinois

WHEREAS, Kevin K. Wright is a member of a fourth generation farm family hailing from southeastern Illinois; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Southern Illinois University; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright earned a Masters in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright entered public service in 1980 as a James H. Dunn Fellow in the Office of the Governor of the State of Illinois; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright served from 1981 until 1990 as Director of Boards and Commissions, House and Senate Legislative Liaison, and Director of the Department of Profession Regulation for former Governor James R. Thompson; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright served from 1991 until 1998 as Director of Legislative Affairs and Deputy Chief of Staff for former Secretary of State George H. Ryan; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright served as Deputy Chief of Staff for former Governor George H. Ryan from 1999 until 2002; *and*

WHEREAS, During his service as Deputy Chief of Staff for former Governor Ryan, Commissioner Wright played an important policy role in dealing with such issues as Health Maintenance Organization reform, the development of a Patients' Bill of Rights, large-scale livestock facility siting reforms, and the reform of Illinois' telecommunications laws; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright was appointed Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission effective September 1, 2002; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright remained a member of the ICC following the appointment of a new chairman in 2003; *and*

WHEREAS, During his service as a member of the ICC, Commissioner Wright strongly advocated consumer protection, the provision of reliable utility service, and electric and telecommunications competition; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright played an important role in the ICC's handling of numerous important issues during his service on that body; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright supported the deregulation of residential telephone service in Chicago under a joint proposal between the Citizen's Utility Board and AT&T

which provided lower cost phone service plans and additional consumer protection measures; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright served as Chairman of the ICC's Electricity Policy Committee; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright led the ICC's decision to investigate electric outages occurring in the summer of 2006 and following a November 2006, winter storm; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright supported both Illinois' efforts to move to a competitive electricity market in 2007 and efforts to ensure that the goals of the Illinois restructuring law were achieved through proper implementation and the advocacy of necessary improvements in the underlying enabling legislation; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright was active in addressing regional and national issues during his service as a member of the ICC; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright was active in and served as President of the Organization of MISO States; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright served as State Co-Chair of the MISO/PJM FERC/State Regional Joint Board on Economic Dispatch; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright was an active member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, having served on the Electricity Committee; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright was particularly active in facilitating NARUC's response to the enactment of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, having served as co-leader of the Transmission Access and Market Rules working group; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright is widely recognized for his willingness to listen to others, to discuss controversial subjects in a courteous and respectful manner, and to attempt to find consensus among people with differing perspectives; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright is noted for his love of gardening, his equanimity, his good humor, his ability to avoid taking himself too seriously, and his kindness toward and interest in his colleagues; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright has announced that he intends to resign from the ICC after its February 15, 2007, bench session; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright's colleagues on the Committee on Electricity and throughout NARUC value their friendship with him and have greatly appreciated having had the opportunity to work with him during his service on the ICC; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its February 2007 Winter Meetings in Washington, D.C., extends its best wishes to Commissioner Wright and its hopes that he will be successful and happy in all his future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors February 21, 2007