

Resolution Honoring David C. Coen

WHEREAS, Commissioner David Coen hails from Vermont, a major part of the “Waterfall Highway” system; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Coen was appointed as a Member to the Vermont Public Service Board in 1995 by then-Governor Howard Dean; was reappointed in 2001 and has subsequently been reappointed again to a third six-year term by Governor Jim Douglas; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Coen has served in a variety of regional and national leadership positions including the Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee of the New England Conference of Public Utility Commissioners (NECPUC) and as a member of the Electricity, Gas, and Finance and Technology Committees of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC); *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Coen served as President of NARUC from November 2009-November 2010 and with his opening remarks stated, “With Congress and the Administration debating profound changes to our utility landscape, our role as State regulators will be critical to ensuring consumer protection and reliable service. We as a nation are facing changing times, and regulators must remain focused on the public interest;” *and*

WHEREAS, The theme of Commissioner Coen’s Presidency at NARUC was “Keeping the Focus: Serving the Public Interest in Changing Times;” *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Coen often told the “weasel in the attic” story to illustrate the importance of serving the public. The story highlights the importance of the words “public service” in Public Service Board, or Public Service Commission. The moral of the story is that while consumers may not always understand what utility regulators do, commissioners must make certain that any decision they make furthers the public interest; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Coen currently serves on the NARUC Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, the Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues – Waste Disposal, and the Committee on Consumer Affairs; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Coen was a Founding Member of the NARUC Committee on Consumer Affairs and also served as its Vice Chair from 2006-2007; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Coen served as Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI) from 2007-2008; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Coen often used the term “belt and suspenders” as an important element of a regulator getting the job done. He took this term seriously and made it a part of his daily wardrobe, perhaps to send a message to his fellow regulators...; *and*

WHEREAS, His desire to serve the public interest and consumers didn't end in the PSB headquarters, as he often viewed himself as the protector of the "Grey Geese" that could be found in his backyard; *and*,

WHEREAS, Commissioner Coen is lucky to have such humorous colleagues at the PSB who were able to contribute much of the "wit" and "tib-bit" facts about him to this piece; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Coen's prior government service includes the Vermont Goals 2000 Commission, the Lake Champlain Management Conference, and the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Educational and Municipal Financing Reform; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Coen also served as Deputy Mayor, Alderman and Water Commissioner in the City of Vergennes, Vermont; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Coen has held a wide variety of community leadership positions, including serving on and/or chairing the Boards of Directors of the Vermont Business Roundtable, the Addison County Chamber of Commerce, the Addison County Regional Economic Development Corporation, Porter Medical Center, and the Snelling Center for Government; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Coen previously served as President and CEO of Fishman's Department Stores, in Vergennes, Vermont, and Ticonderoga, New York, and began his career as a teacher of English in Connecticut public schools; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Coen holds a Bachelor's Degree from Colgate University, and pursued graduate study at Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2011 Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, commends Commissioner David Coen on his service to the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and to the Committee on Consumer Affairs.

Sponsored by the Committee on Consumer Affairs

Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors November 14, 2011

Adopted by the NARUC Committee of the Whole November 16, 2011