

Resolution Honoring Former Tennessee Commissioner Eddie Roberson

WHEREAS, Eddie Roberson was appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen in 2006 as Director to the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (TRA) and reappointed in 2008; *and*

WHEREAS, Director Roberson served the citizens of Tennessee, with diligence and fidelity, as TRA's chairman in 2007-2009; *and*

WHEREAS, While at the TRA, Eddie easily transitioned from "Commission staff" to "Commissioner" and was instrumental in encouraging the regulated energy utilities to implement energy conservation programs for their customers; *and*

WHEREAS, Eddie was hired by the Public Service Commission, predecessor to the TRA, in 1975; *and*

WHEREAS, During his stellar career at the Commission, Eddie served as Chief of Consumer Services Division and Director of the Consumer Services and External Affairs Division, *and*

WHEREAS, From 1995 to 1996, he served as interim Executive Director during the agency's transition from Public Service Commission to Tennessee Regulatory Authority; *and*

WHEREAS, Eddie, as a Rule 31 Mediator, utilized his professional skills, while negotiating numerous beneficial settlements on behalf of the consumers of the State of Tennessee; *and*

WHEREAS, Eddie has been active nationally in regulation affecting consumers, serving as Chair of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Staff Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs from 2001-2006; Vice Chair of the Committee on Consumer Affairs from 2008-2010; Chairman of the Gas Committee's Task Force on Speculation and Market Manipulation from 2008-2011; and distinguished member of the Board of Directors from 2010-2011; *and*

WHEREAS, Eddie, as Chairman of NARUC's Subcommittee on Education and Research, strongly advocated for continued education and technical training for both commissioners and staff, and practiced this advocacy in leading the NARUC New Commissioner Regulatory Orientations in March and September 2011;

WHEREAS, Eddie, being raised in the home of a minister, quickly mastered the art of persuasion, promotion, politeness, passion, and perseverance, and always had a kind word for his peers, superiors, friends, and opponents; *and*

WHEREAS, His "Eddieisms" will be fondly remembered among NARUC members--"let's educate those consumers," "those Commissioners need to be educated," which, ironically, he stopped saying when he became one, "you gotta handle those reporters," and "let me be brief," meaning I've got the floor and you can't have it!; *and*

WHEREAS, Under Eddie's leadership NARUC's Staff Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs was at the forefront of public policy issues impacting consumers, particularly low-income consumers;
and

WHEREAS, Eddie holds a Bachelor's degree in Education and a Master's degree in Organizational Psychology from the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, and a Doctorate degree in Public Administration from the Tennessee State University, Nashville; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2011 Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, extends its sincere appreciation to Eddie Roberson for his outstanding public service and conveys to him its best wishes for all his future endeavors.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Subcommittee on Education & Research
Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors November 14, 2011
Adopted by the NARUC Committee of the Whole November 16, 2011*