

Resolution in Support of New Energy Efficiency Standards

WHEREAS, Energy efficiency standards are cost effective means of mitigating climate change and reducing atmospheric emissions; *and*

WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced new refrigerator standards supported by environmentalists, efficiency advocates, state energy officials, utilities, and manufacturers in April 1997; *and*

WHEREAS, These new standards for refrigerators will result in 20% to 30% energy savings compared to older models and will benefit consumers, the economy and the environment; *and*

WHEREAS, Standards for other appliances, such as for residential clothes washers, fluorescent lamp ballasts, residential water heaters, and residential central air conditioners are at various stages of development; *and*

WHEREAS, Currently the nation lacks efficiency standards for distribution transformers, even though the Energy Policy Act of 1992 and President Clinton's Climate Change Action Plan of 1993 recommended that DOE should research and set such standards, and even though some utilities are reducing the efficiency of distribution transformers as a cost-cutting measure; *and*

WHEREAS, Many utilities are participating in market transformation programs for such products as high-efficiency clothes washers and residential central air conditioners; *and*

WHEREAS, New efficiency standards for clothes washers, fluorescent lamp ballasts, water heaters, central air conditioners and distribution transformers can, by 2010, reduce consumer energy bills by over \$4 billion per year according to an American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy study, and would also significantly reduce emissions of key pollutants such as carbon, sulphur and nitrogen oxides; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its 1997 Summer Meeting in San Francisco, California, commends the DOE for its recent adoption of efficiency standards for refrigerators; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC supports the upgrade of the standard for residential clothes washers to the higher efficiency levels made possible by horizontal axis clothes washers and other advanced designs; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC supports the upgrade of lighting standards for fluorescent lamp ballasts and urges the development of standards, for future implementation, for the conventional general service light bulb; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC supports a DOE effort to set standards for distribution transformers; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC supports the revision of standards for gas and electric water heaters, residential central air conditioners and heat pumps to be upgraded from mid-efficiency to high-efficiency.

*Sponsored by the Committees on Electricity and Energy Resources
Adopted July 23, 1997*