

***Resolution Regarding Enhanced Federal Support for Clean Energy Technology Research,
Development, Demonstration, and Deployment Activities***

WHEREAS, Affordable, secure, and clean energy options will be critical to addressing major economic, national security and environmental challenges including the high cost of needed energy infrastructure improvements, global competition for resources, oil dependence, and climate change; *and*

WHEREAS, U.S. leadership in innovation, science, and technology has been an essential building block of our nation's competitiveness in a global economy and could play a vital role in helping to address these challenges; *and*

WHEREAS, U.S. public and private investment in energy research and development accounts for less than one half of one percent of America's energy expenditures, a much smaller percentage commitment to research and development than occurs in other major sectors of the economy; *and*

WHEREAS, Federal Government energy research and development spending adjusted for inflation declined by 80% from 1979 to 2007; *and*

WHEREAS, Although the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provided a temporary increase in funding for energy research and development, it is unclear whether essential funding will be sustained over the period necessary to bring new clean energy technologies into the market; *and*

WHEREAS, The bipartisan National Commission on Energy Policy, the International Energy Agency, an independent analysis by the Brookings Institution, a group of 34 U.S. Nobel Laureates, and prominent business leaders including those making up the American Energy Innovation Council, among others, have recommended a doubling or larger increase in government support for Clean Energy research, development, demonstration, and deployment; *and*

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Energy has developed a portfolio of mechanisms, supplementing existing laboratories and programs, to accelerate innovation and improve the efficiency of efforts to develop and commercialize new energy technologies, including the Advanced Research Project Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) which funds high-risk, high-payoff projects and is patterned after the successful Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Energy Innovation Hubs which provide longer term support to integrate basic and applied research and achieve breakthrough advances in key technologies, and Energy Frontier Research Centers focusing on fundamental research related to key energy problems; *and*

WHEREAS, Promising new technologies face significant risks when attempting to cross the gap between development and commercialization, often referred to as a “valley of death” for new technology; *and*

WHEREAS, Aligning support for large-scale demonstrations and early deployments of new Clean Energy technologies with energy research and development programs and with measurable objectives could accelerate the commercialization of the most promising new technologies; *and*

WHEREAS, Clean Energy technology includes technologies related to the production, use, transmission, storage, control or conservation of energy that will reduce demand for new energy supplies, diversify the U.S. energy supplies, and contribute to the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations; *and*

WHEREAS, NARUC's resolutions have promoted development of clean energy technologies, including a July 2009 resolution's attached white paper which notes that "policy makers can facilitate significant 'emissions' reductions though expansion of a wide range of State-level clean energy programs and support for demonstration projects in new technologies;" *and*

WHEREAS, NARUC has demonstrated a consistent and strong commitment to promoting energy efficiency – through passing resolutions encouraging States and the nation to consider implementing energy efficiency programs and though its key role in the development of the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, a collaborative effort involving State and Federal regulators, utilities, and energy consumers to identify and reduce barriers limiting greater investment in energy efficiency; *and*

WHEREAS, NARUC resolutions have supported deployment of clean and renewable energy technologies, including a July 2009 resolution urging the Department of Energy to adopt rules for its loan guarantee program that would encourage the commercialization and use of energy technologies that reduce, avoid, or sequester air pollutants and greenhouse gases, a February 2009 resolution requesting an extension of the federal investment tax credit for solar energy systems, a November 2006 resolution asking for an increase in funding for a farm renewable energy and energy efficiency program and actions to encourage the development of transmission capacity for new wind energy projects, and a July 2004 resolution seeking an investment tax credit for small wind turbines installed by homeowners or small businesses; *and*

WHEREAS, NARUC urged Congress and the Administration, in a July 2009 resolution, to provide adequate funding and incentives for research into carbon capture and storage technologies and underground storage capacities; *and*

WHEREAS, Congress is considering proposals which could double Federal support for clean energy research, development, demonstration, and deployment activities and create a Clean Energy Deployment Administration; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2010 Summer Committee Meetings in Sacramento, California, supports a sustained substantial increase in federal government support for research, development, demonstration, and deployment of Clean Energy technologies designed to expand the range of technology options that will be available to meet this nation's economic, national security, and environmental challenges; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC urges Congress and the Administration to consider approaches and institutional reforms that would further support large-scale demonstrations and early deployments of promising new Clean Energy technologies and align such support with energy research and development programs and with measurable objectives based on a comprehensive national energy strategy.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors July 21, 2010*