

Resolution on Verizon Wireless's Forbearance Petition

WHEREAS, Subsequent to FCC's 1996 release of its First Report and Order on number portability, the wireless industry has filed three petitions for extensions of time to meet the FCC's portability requirement; *and*

WHEREAS, Verizon Wireless (Verizon) has recently filed a petition requesting permanent forbearance from porting telephone numbers; *and*

WHEREAS, Verizon's petition fails to: (1) quantify the alleged costs that justifies forbearance; (2) provide an empirical assessment of the extent to which wireless customers value their telephone numbers and how much of an impediment this is to changing carriers; and (3) quantify its cost savings as a result of the FCC's classification of wireless as local for the purposes of reciprocal compensation; *and*

WHEREAS, Approval of Verizon's petition would result in an inefficient use of telephone number resources; *and*

WHEREAS, Approval of Verizon's petition would result in less competition among wireless providers if customers are unable to retain their wireless telephone numbers when switching to alternative wireless service providers offering more economical calling packages; *and*

WHEREAS, Approval of Verizon's petition would take effect to the detriment of promoting local competition; *and*

WHEREAS, Wireless service will not become truly competitive with wireline service because customers will be unable to retain their telephone numbers when switching between wireline and wireless service providers to the detriment of promoting competition; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its November 2001 Annual Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, urges the FCC to deny Verizon's petition; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That should the FCC be inclined to approve the petition, that it maintain its requirement that wireless carriers begin pooling on November 24, 2002, and at a minimum, require wireless carriers to provide the estimated costs that they would experience from porting and obtain further data on the value wireless customers place on their telephone numbers.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors November 13, 2001

Adopted by the Committee of the Whole November 14, 2001