Resolution Urging the Amendment of
the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984
to Protect the Public Interest

WHEREAS, Cable television systems provide news, information, sports and
entertainment programming to millions of American households under franchises awarded
by government officials; and

WHEREAS, As systems have grown, television generally, and cable television
services specifically, have become increasingly important to the American public as
reflected by the following statistics: of approximately 90 million American households, 87
million possess televisions (compared to 82.6 million which possess telephones); 70
million households have access to basic cable services, and 43.5 million subscribe to
basic cable services--almost half of all households; and

WHEREAS, The Congress enacted the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984,
which, beginning in January 1987, prohibits State and local governments from regulating
the rates and services of cable systems; and

WHEREAS, Despite the enactment of this statute, recent studies conclusively
indicate that cable systems remain monopolies, now unregulated, within their franchise
territories; and

WHEREAS, This monopoly power, coupled with deregulation, has led to steep rate
increases; and

WHEREAS, Congress has pending several bills which address in various ways the
issues of competition and reregulation of the cable television industry; now, therefore, be
it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee of the National Association of
Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), assembled at its 1990 Winter Committee
Meeting in Washington, D.C., hereby urges the Congress to repeal the provisions of the
Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 which prohibit State and local officials from
regulating cable television systems thereby leaving to the States the decision whether or
not to pass laws or promulgate regulations they deem appropriate to promote competition
and protect the public interest.

Sponsored by the Committee on Communications
Adopted February 28, 1990