

Resolution Honoring NARUC's "Elder Statesman" Allan "the Senator" Thoms

WHEREAS, Allan T. Thoms has served as Chairman of the Iowa Utilities Board since his appointment in April 1995; and

WHEREAS, Even before his appointment to the PSC, Chairman Thoms racked up a distinguished record in public service working as Director of the Iowa Department of Economic Development from 1990 to 1994 and from 1986 to 1989, and also serving as a Commissioner of the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Department of Environmental Quality; and

WHEREAS, Cigar in hand, Allan rocketed up the NARUC hierarchy, becoming the Co-Vice Chair of the Committee on Telecommunications, a member of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees, and the first commissioner - in NARUC's 113 year history to occupy the stand-alone office of association Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, It is alleged that Mr. Thoms got the Treasurer post based on his reputation of "extreme fiscal restraint" - bolstered by rumors that he could cater a Christmas party for 50 at his favorite upscale Des Moines eatery "A Dongs" for twenty dollars or less (although this was offset somewhat by his marked tendency to squander personal assets by betting up to 10 cents a hole on golfing matches where his usual ability to make clear analytical assessments consistently would evade him - evidenced by the fact that he would always bet on himself); and

WHEREAS, Allan rapidly achieved a national reputation for clear, level headed analysis and honesty serving the public interest, and NARUC, in many ways, e.g., as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Federal Communications Commission Universal Service Administrative, a member of the Advisory Committee of the New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities and past Chairman of the Qwest Regional Oversight Committee that oversees Qwest's operations in its 14-State service area.

WHEREAS, While Chairman of the IUB, Chairman Thoms took a special interest in telecommunications - an interest rumored to have been sparked by seeing the financial success of his good childhood friend Alex Bell; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thoms was present for the "Hundtian" Telecom revolution, and, based on the Iowa UB's success creaming the FCC in court to get a Stay of the 1st Interconnection order (and joining NARUC and others in getting a mandamus petition ordering the FCC to comply with the court's previous orders), must be assigned some of the credit for Chairman Hundt's cordial demeanor towards the States for much of the 1996-97; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Thoms's professional expertise, intellect, integrity, good spirit and leadership during his years as a NARUC member has strengthened and enriched NARUC's deliberations; and

WHEREAS, The broad vision, leadership, dedication, and commitment to excellence that Chairman Thoms brought to the FCC and the NARUC will be greatly missed by his fellow

regulators; and

WHEREAS, There are many Commissioners that are universally well liked by fellow Commissioners, Staff, and Industry and there are many that are universally respected by those same groups for both their ethical standards and their detached keen analytical ability, but very few that garner both accolades; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) convened in its November 2001 113th Annual Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, agrees that Allan is one of the "very few" and extend hearty congratulations and its sincere thanks to Chairman Thoms for his distinguished public service to the United States and NARUC, and conveys its best wishes for his future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications.

Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors November 13, 2001. Adopted in Convention November 14, 2001.