

Resolution Supporting Activities That Encourage the Deployment of Innovative Broadband Technologies

WHEREAS, Broadband services bring a host of benefits to Americans, including news and information, economic development, distance-learning, telework, telehealth, and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 directs the FCC and states to promote deployment of advanced service capabilities to all Americans; and

WHEREAS, NARUC at its Summer 2000 meeting adopted a resolution supporting specific legislative initiatives to encourage the deployment of broadband technologies; and

WHEREAS, Many Americans, especially those in rural and underserved areas, still do not have direct and/or affordable access to broadband services; and

WHEREAS, Some customers who desire to attach innovative wireless devices to the network for legitimate purposes face practical and other impediments; and

WHEREAS, Innovative technologies, such as wireless devices operating in what is known as "unlicensed" spectrum, are now being used to provide broadband Internet access and other valuable communications services in some areas; and

WHEREAS, Access to a variety of platforms increases the choices consumers have for taking advantage of broadband services; and

WHEREAS, Innovative wireless technologies using unlicensed spectrum (such as Wi-Fi) may offer the best prospect for competitive broadband access in urban areas, and for any broadband access in many rural and underserved areas; and

WHEREAS, Unlicensed spectrum technologies allow for innovation, lower costs, and consumer choice in the broadband marketplace; and

WHEREAS, Spectrum could be made available for more effective use in diverse physical environments; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its February 2003 Winter Meeting in Washington, D. C., supports efforts consistent with the provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, including section 706, to encourage deployment of innovative technologies in all broadband platforms, to assist in making broadband Internet access available to all Americans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Congress, the FCC, the NTIA, and other policy makers should address the impediments to innovative wireless technology deployment, allocate adequate spectrum for unlicensed use, and adopt other policies that encourage the deployment of such technologies in diverse physical environments; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the NARUC General Counsel and Legislative Director are directed to make these positions known to the FCC, Congress and appropriate federal entities through

appropriate means.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors February 26, 2003