

Resolution in Support of State Energy Efficiency Standards

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) estimates predict that energy efficiency standards for residential and commercial products already existing today will reduce national annual energy use by 3.5% and peak electricity demand by 12.6% by 2020 thus proving to be one of the most effective policies for saving energy; *and*

WHEREAS, States, including Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin pioneered the first appliance and equipment standards in the 1970s and 1980s for a diverse array of consumer and commercial products including refrigerators, air conditioners and commercial lighting equipment; *and*

WHEREAS, These State standards precipitated Federal laws enacted in 1987, 1988 and 1992 which adopted all of the prior State standards nationally; *and*

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners has a long history of supporting the national efficiency standards that originated in the States and supporting upgrades to those standards with resolutions adopted in July 1996, July 1997, July 1999 and July 2000; *and*

WHEREAS, Recent analysis of new opportunities for cost-effective energy efficiency standards by Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships and the Appliance Standards Awareness Project determined that new, cost-effective energy efficiency standards covering a range of commercial and residential products could reduce projected growth in annual electricity use by 24% and peak electricity demand growth by 27% to 55% depending on the power pool while saving energy consumers in the Northeast nearly \$27 billion net by 2020; *and*

WHEREAS, The States of Maryland and California have recently adopted new energy efficiency standards and such new standards are pending in several other States including New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and others; *and*

WHEREAS, A coordinated approach across State lines to the adoption and implementation of State standards will ease the impact of such standards on manufacturers and retailers and help keep State implementation costs to a minimum; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its March 2004 Winter Meetings in Washington, D.C., encourages State utility regulators and other policy makers to support State legislation or regulatory action where appropriate to establish State level energy efficiency standards that are cost-effective for their respective States; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC urges State regulators and other policy makers to coordinate across State lines to the greatest extent practical in their development and implementation of such State standards.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors March 10, 2004*