

**Resolution to Facilitate Implementation in the States of Changes
to the Communications Act of 1934**

WHEREAS, Whatever the final form of the expected legislation on Communication Act amendments, it is certain that the task of implementation of so major a revision will be a daunting one for all the parties; and

WHEREAS, State utility commission implementation of any new law would be greatly facilitated by an amendment providing for a series of three modest Federal grants to the research arm of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners--The National Regulatory Research Institute; and

WHEREAS, The NRRI played a similar facilitative role with Federal assistance after the passage of Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 and since that time has demonstrated its value to State and Federal entities alike as a highly credible instrument for timely, relevant, technically sound utility research and assistance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its 1994 Winter Meetings in Washington, D.C., supports an amendment (such as that attached hereto) to the currently proposed legislative changes to the Communications Act of 1934 which would authorize the appropriation of grant funds to the U.S. Department of Commerce specifically for NARUC and its research institute (the NRRI) on a percentage matching basis.

Sponsored by the Subcommittee on Administration

Adopted March 2, 1994

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**DRAFT OF SUGGESTED LANGUAGE FOR
INSERTION INTO ANY LEGISLATION AMENDING
THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934**

TITLE ? – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. ? Regulatory Research

(a) **MATCHING GRANTS.**--The Secretary may make grants under this section to the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and to its research institute to enable such institute to--

- (1) conduct research on telecommunications regulatory policy issues,
- (2) develop and disseminate information on universal service, new information technologies and markets, consumer safeguards, and service quality standards,
- (3) perform other functions directly related to assisting State regulatory authorities in carrying out their functions under State law and this Act.

(b) **FEDERAL SHARE.**--Grants under this section shall not be used to provide more than the following percentages of the cost to the institute of carrying out the activities specified in subsection (a):

- (1) 95 percent for the fiscal year 1995,
- (2) 90 percent for the fiscal year 1996, and
- (3) 85 percent for the fiscal year 1997.

The remaining amounts expended by the institute may not be provided from other Federal sources.

(c) **RESTRICTIONS.**--Grants under this section may not be made subject to terms and conditions other than those the Secretary deems necessary for purposes of administering this section and for purposes of assuring that--

- (1) all information gathered by the institute is available to the Secretary, the Commission, and the public, and
- (2) no portion of any such grant is used to support or oppose any legislative proposal except by means of testimony by representatives of the institute provided by invitation to a committee of Congress or of a State legislature.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**--There is authorized to be appropriated not more than \$2,200,000 for each of the fiscal years 1995, 1996, and 1997 for purposes of making grants under this section which grants shall not exceed \$200,000 per year for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and \$2,000,000 per year for its research institute. No amounts may be appropriated for any fiscal year after the fiscal 1997 to carry out the purposes of this section without a specific authorization of Congress.