WHEREAS, After nearly 18 years of service to the State of Nebraska and to utility consumers nationwide, Commissioner Anne Boyle has chosen to retire from the Nebraska Public Service Commission (NPSC) representing the Second District of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Boyle was first elected to the NPSC when the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was passed; and was re-elected in 2002 and in 2008 and she has served as its Chair in 2002, 2003, 2008 and 2013; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Boyle is presently the only woman ever elected to serve the 100 year-old NPSC and is currently the only Democrat and only woman holding a State constitutional office in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Boyle has served on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Board of Directors, has been an active member of the Telecommunications Committee and a founding member of the Consumer Affairs Committee which was established during her tenure; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Boyle served as Chair of the Consumer Affairs Committee in 2009 and has worked to shape the rules of engagement for telecommunications and utility consumers nationwide; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, Commissioner Boyle served as the President of the Mid-America Regulatory Commissioners (MARC) and organized a successful conference in her home city of Omaha, Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Boyle also assumed leadership roles on the Boards of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and the North American Numbering Council (NANC); and

WHEREAS, While serving on the USAC Board she brought attention to the astronomical increases to the Lifeline Fund, primarily caused by pre-paid wireless companies; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Boyle was appointed to the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service in 2011, and during her tenure Anne has remained an active voice for State universal service fund programs and tried to do everything her mentor, Gene Hand, Nebraska PSC Telecommunications Director, has told her to do …not; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Boyle’s leadership and tireless federal advocacy led to the adoption of wireline and wireless local number portability in the U.S., facilitating intermodal competition that benefitted millions of American consumers; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Boyle was an outspoken critic of unfair wireless Early Termination Fees (ETFs) which resulted in Congressional legislation to pro-rate ETFs; and
WHEREAS, Commissioner Boyle’s leadership and vision led to the establishment of a consumer bill of rights framework which became a standard across many States and prompted the FCC to provide consumers with greater transparency into their monthly billing statements; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Boyle’s leadership on the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service brought clarity to the debate and subsequent federal orders that reshaped high cost support mechanisms, articulating the impact of these changes on rural carriers and their customers; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Boyle has served as a professional mentor, friend and inspiration to men and women in the utility, finance, consumer protection and regulatory sectors throughout her distinguished career in public service; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Boyle has effectively reached across party, regional and industry lines to form consensus outcomes to complex and contentious policy debates before State and federal jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Boyle, a fourth generation Omahan, has been actively involved in politics most of her life, serving as State Chair of the Nebraska Democratic Party from 1998 to 2001 and on civic and non-profit boards such as Omaha by Design, Downtown Improvement District, Omaha Neighborhood Center, Omaha City Charter Review, Nebraska Aids Project Annual Ball, Habitat for Humanity, Child Saving Institute and River City Mixed Chorus; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Boyle served on President Clinton’s Advisory Committee on the Arts in 1995, as President and Board of Directors Member of the Omaha Summer Arts Festival in 2005 through 2007 and as a Board Member for the Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her distinguished public service career, Commissioner Boyle is devoted to her husband of nearly 50 years, Mike, current Douglas County Commissioner and former mayor of Omaha, their five children and spouses, and their 18 grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, NARUC and its federal agency counterparts will miss Commissioner Boyle’s leadership, insight, and her outspoken dedication to consumer choice, competition, universal service and broadband deployment and adoption for every ratepayer; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 126th Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California, extend their gratitude to Commissioner Boyle for her service to NARUC, Nebraskans, and consumers everywhere.

Sponsored by the Committee on Consumer Affairs and the Committee on Telecommunications
Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors November 18, 2014
Adopted by the NARUC Committee of the Whole November 19, 2014