

***Resolution on the Impact of Electric Industry Restructuring On Low-income Residential Consumers***

**WHEREAS**, As a result of actions taken by Federal and State regulators, the electric utility industry is now undergoing significant structural and operational changes as more market oriented policies are implemented; *and*

**WHEREAS**, While the injection of greater competition into electricity markets has the potential to improve the efficiency of utilities, there is also the possibility that these changes could lead to cost shifts among customer classes in ways that increase costs and disproportionately affect low-income residential customers; *and*

**WHEREAS**, On average, low-income households pay a larger share of their incomes for electricity than any other customer class; *now, therefore, be it*

**RESOLVED**, That the Executive Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its 1995 Summer Meeting in San Francisco, California urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and individual States, when implementing policies to restructure electric utility services and operations, to protect low-income customers from adverse impacts of such restructuring by including safeguards which, among other policies a State may deem appropriate:

- Prevent unfair cost-shifting between customer classes;
- Make available the benefits of a competitive market to each customer class without undue discrimination;
- Maintain fair and reasonable billing and collection practices;
- Sustain commission-approved low-income energy efficiency and rate programs
- Limit disproportionate environmental impacts in low-income neighborhoods; and
- Ensure the effective participation of all citizens in the restructuring debate.

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*Sponsored by the Committee on Energy Conservation*  
*Adopted July 26, 1995*