Resolution Honoring Marilyn Showalter of Washington

WHEREAS, Marilyn Showalter earned a bachelor's degree in History and Science magna cum laude from Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges, and a JD degree from the Harvard Law School; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Showalter is rightly proud that her daughter, Amelia, has just this year, followed her example by graduating from Harvard College; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Showalter has demonstrated her ardent commitment to bettering the lives of the citizens of the State of Washington through her distinguished service to the King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office as a Prosecuting Attorney for seven years; to Governor John Spellman as Counsel for two years; to the Washington House of Representatives for six years as Committee Counsel, Deputy Clerk, and Chief Clerk; and to Governor Gary Locke for two years as Senior Executive Policy Advisor; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Showalter served the citizens of the State of Washington tirelessly as Chairwoman of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) from February 1999 until March 2005; and

WHEREAS, During her service on the WUTC, Chairwoman Showalter played an active role in promoting the highest possible standards for telephone customer privacy in the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, Chairwoman Showalter was a major advocate for and active participant in the State of Washington’s collective decision to refrain from restructuring its electric utility industry and to retain its traditional system of public and private utilities regulated in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, Chairwoman Showalter provided the citizens of the State of Washington with effective leadership during the western energy crisis, as is evidenced by the fact that, during Chairwoman Showalter’s tenure, the State-wide average of electricity rates paid by customers of the utilities regulated by the WUTC increased at less than the rate of inflation—despite the unprecedented price volatility caused by the western energy crisis; and

WHEREAS, The State of Washington is a safer place because of Chairwoman Showalter’s activities, including her work with the Federal Office of Pipeline Safety to strengthen the State’s role in monitoring and enforcing pipeline safety standards and her service as a member of the U.S. Department of Transportation Technical Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Standards Committee; and

WHEREAS, Chairwoman Showalter elevated the writing and punctuation skills of her colleagues and staff while exhausting the State’s supply of red ink by, among other things, insisting upon the elimination of unnecessary prepositions and unflaggingly advocating the use of gratuitous hyphens; and

WHEREAS, Chairwoman Showalter worked steadfastly with commissioners in other States in the West and across the country in an effort to protect the interests of consumers served by the energy, telecommunication, and pipeline industries; and
WHEREAS, Chairwoman Showalter was recognized as a leader by her colleagues across the country, having served with distinction as a member of the Telecommunications Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC); as President of the Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners; and as Chairwoman of the Qwest Regional Oversight Committee; and

WHEREAS, Chairwoman Showalter served her colleagues and the country with distinction as a leader in NARUC, culminating in her service as President of NARUC from November 2004 until February of 2005; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Showalter continues her service to the citizens of the Pacific Northwest and her active involvement in regional electricity issues in the Pacific Northwest by representing the interests of public power utilities on behalf of the Public Power Council; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Showalter is widely recognized for her expertise in the energy and telecommunications arenas; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Showalter is also widely recognized for her intelligence, clarity of thought, directness of speech, courage, and tenacity; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Showalter’s former colleagues on the Committee on Telecommunication and throughout NARUC value their friendships with her, have appreciated the opportunity to have worked with her, and are grateful to her for the significant contributions that she has made during her years of service to the members of NARUC and the citizens of the State of Washington; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its July 2005 Summer Meetings in Austin, Texas, expresses its sincere appreciation to Marilyn Showalter for her dedication and her contributions to NARUC and to consumer-focused utility regulation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors extends its best wishes to Marilyn Showalter and hopes for success and happiness in all her future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Telecommunications Committee
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors July 27, 2005