

Convention Floor Resolution No. 5

**Resolution Adopting 1995 NARUC Federal Telecommunications
Legislative Policy Principles and White Paper**

WHEREAS, In 1994 the 103rd Congress attempted to pass telecommunications reform legislation, the intent of which was to promote infrastructure development, open the local exchange to competition and eliminate existing cross-ownership and line of business restrictions on local telephone companies; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. House of Representatives succeeded in passing legislation, but the U.S. Senate did not, so the legislation failed to become law in 1994; and

WHEREAS, It is likely that Congress will once again attempt to pass telecommunications legislation during the 104th Congress; and

WHEREAS, The Clinton Administration has stated its support for comprehensive legislation to promote the development of a national information infrastructure, or "Information Superhighway"; and

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) actively participated in the 1994 Congressional process by taking positions on certain provisions of the legislation and lobbying for Congressional support of those positions; and

WHEREAS, The positions taken by NARUC were derived from a set of policy principles that was adopted at the 1994 NARUC Winter Meetings; and

WHEREAS, In lobbying its positions in the 1994 session, the NARUC took the very significant step of not opposing federal preemption of state entry barriers to local competition; and

WHEREAS, The bills that passed out of the House of Representatives, and the bill that was passed out of the Senate Commerce Committee, went far beyond preemption of entry barriers and substantially altered the division of jurisdictional authority that currently exists between the FCC and the States; and

WHEREAS, During the transition to competition, States have a critical role to play in preserving and advancing universal service, protecting the public safety and welfare, ensuring continued quality of telecommunications services, safeguarding the rights of consumers and ensuring just and reasonable rates for telephone service; and

WHEREAS, As a result of participation in the 1994 session and in anticipation of the 104th Congress, NARUC's policy principles have been clarified and revised, and a white paper reflecting NARUC's priorities for legislation has been written to guide the

NARUC's federal legislative efforts in the 104th Congress; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its 106th Annual Convention in Reno, Nevada, hereby adopts the NARUC Federal Telecommunications Legislative Policy Principles and White Paper attached to this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NARUC use the principles and white paper to analyze and respond to Federal telecommunications legislation in the appropriate forum.

Sponsored by the Committee on Communications
Adopted November 16, 1994
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