

Resolution on Funding Nuclear Research and Development

WHEREAS, The diversity of energy resources is an important element in the long-term reliability of the nation's electricity supply; *and*

WHEREAS, Nuclear power has the potential to provide clean, reliable, and competitively-priced electricity essential to meeting national environmental objectives; *and*

WHEREAS, Nuclear research and development (R&D) may yield technological advances which, in turn, may enable existing nuclear plants to provide clean, reliable, and cost-effective electricity into the future, may make the license renewal option more economically feasible for a larger percentage of existing nuclear plants, and may permit existing nuclear plants to maintain their significant contribution to the nation's power supply and fuel diversity; *and*

WHEREAS, Federally funded nuclear fission energy supply R&D at the Department of Energy (DOE) has plummeted this decade, reaching zero funding in 1998, while federal funding to all other energy supply R&D categories (fossil, renewables, energy efficiency, fusion) has averaged over \$300M per year over the same period; *and*

WHEREAS, The President's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) stated in their 1997 report that nuclear energy must be included in the DOE R&D portfolio and recommended the Administration and Congress fund two new nuclear energy R&D programs, one to competitively select among proposals by researchers from universities, national laboratories, and industry to address key issues affecting the future of fission energy, and one associated with the continued operation of current nuclear power plants; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 1999 Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, D.C., calls upon the President, the Congress, and the Department of Energy to support research and development associated with nuclear power technology through sufficient funding to:

- 1) improve the security, reliability, and competitiveness of the nation's electricity supply, by including nuclear power in the diverse portfolio of electricity sources,
- 2) reduce the costs of electricity to consumers as a result of current nuclear plant improvements and optimization, and
- 3) facilitate the optimization of the nation's nuclear fuel management system through advanced fuel designs that improve the efficiency of nuclear fuel use.

Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity
Adopted February 24, 1999