

Resolution Supporting Passage of the Comprehensive One Call Notification Act of 1997, Senate Bill §1115, and in the U.S. House of Representatives

WHEREAS, Excavation damage is a leading cause of accidents and service disruptions involving underground facilities (including but not limited to telephone, gas, petroleum, electricity, internet service and cable television) and excavation damage has resulted in loss of life, injury, environmental damage, property damage and disruption of vital services; *and*

WHEREAS, The Comprehensive One-Call Notification Act of 1997, Senate Bill §1115, was passed by the Senate by unanimous consent, and was referred to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and subsequently to the House Commerce Committee on November 12, 1997; *and*

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 1115 creates a one-time \$5 million voluntary incentive grant program that rewards States with established one-call laws that meet the Federal minimum standards as set out in the bill; *and*

WHEREAS, Any sums appropriated for this Act shall be derived from general revenues and may not be derived from amounts collected under 49 CFR United States Code Section 60301; *and*

WHEREAS, Under Senate Bill §1115 the Department of Transportation (DOT) would administer the grant program that can be used to improve public awareness of one-call programs, improve operations of one-call centers, fund training programs, or other purposes that would result in improved underground facility damage prevention; *and*

WHEREAS, Under Senate Bill §1115, there is no penalty if States choose not to apply for the grant and States' rights protected by leaving the details of the program, including participation by excavators and underground facility operators, to the States themselves; *and*

WHEREAS, Senate Bill §1115 directs DOT to work with all interested and affected parties to establish “best practices” for the operations of one-call centers; *and*

WHEREAS, Senate Bill §1115 appropriately treats all excavators and underground facility owners equally by allowing exemptions only upon a showing that such exemption takes into consideration the risks to the public safety, the environment, excavators and underground facilities; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That Senate Bill §1115 enhances public safety, protects the environment, recognizes excavators and the nation’s underground infrastructure through rewarding and encouraging more effective State one-call notification laws and improved operations of one-call centers; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”), convened at its 1998 NARUC Winter Meetings in Washington, D.C., supports passage of the Comprehensive One-Call Notification Act of 1997, Senate Bill §1115, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sponsored by the Committee on Gas
Adopted March 4, 1998