

Resolution Concerning Local Number Portability

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”) has strongly supported the implementation of Local Number Portability (LNP) as an important vehicle for consumer choice; *and*

WHEREAS, LNP provides the opportunity for consumers to easily move service between LNP-capable providers while retaining their telephone number; *and*

WHEREAS, Competition in all voice services has increased the need for LNP to realize customer choice between service providers; and therefore porting of telephone numbers used by all carriers, including LECs, CLECs, wireless carriers and VoIP service providers should comply with uniform industry porting guidelines; *and*

WHEREAS, NARUC supports policies which encourage the continued advancement of competition in telecommunications markets and the ability of consumers to take their telephone number with them when they opt for a new or different provider’s products and services regardless of the type of service; *and*

WHEREAS, A simpler and more convenient process of porting numbers should be considered for adoption as the uniform industry porting process in order to accommodate further consumer ease, increase the rate of successful port completions and facilitate the further advancement of competition; *and*

WHEREAS, Various technical industry groups and bodies responsible for the setting of industry standards, such as the Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS), have been unable to resolve diverse order processing formats between providers for number porting; *and*

WHEREAS, The North American Numbering Council (NANC) has examined the wireless number portability issues on several occasions over the past eight years, most recently, in response to a request from the FCC, including forming an Intermodal Porting Issue Management Group (IMG) that produced a report and recommendation in May 2004 setting forth a streamlined confirmation and activation process; however, its effective implementation has been hindered by the requirement to submit an “error-free” port request; *and*

WHEREAS, The ATIS Ordering and Billing Forum (OBF) has been unable to develop a more efficient and uniform process for porting between wireline and wireless providers through their approval process since assignment of the issue in July of 2005; *and*

WHEREAS, The challenges regarding number portability for VoIP service providers have become increasingly common recently and have been raised before a number of bodies including State commissions, both for the porting in of a number to a VoIP provider and the porting out of a number from a VoIP provider; *and*

WHEREAS, The adoption of a simple and uniform industry porting process will facilitate consumer choice by improving customers' ability to switch carriers when desired, as well as creating a uniform understanding, by all parties, of the steps required to port numbers; *and*

WHEREAS, There is pending before the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"), in Docket CC 95-116, a Petition for Declaratory Ruling regarding LNP seeking clarification that carriers obligated to provide number portability may not obstruct or delay the porting process by demanding information from requesting carriers beyond that required to validate the customer request and accomplish the port ("Portability Petition"); *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners convened in its 2007 Winter Meetings in Washington, D.C. expresses its support for the adoption of a simple and uniform industry porting process; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC staff shall file comments with the FCC in CC 95-116, consistent with this resolution, encouraging the FCC to establish a uniform industry porting process; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC also conveys its concerns to the FCC in the Number Portability Docket regarding the challenges created by having different types of service providers porting numbers to each other, and the need for all service providers to comply with uniform industry porting guidelines and to work cooperatively with other carriers in resolving disputes.

*Sponsored by the Committees on Telecommunications and Consumer Affairs.
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, February 21, 2007*