

Resolution Honoring Staff Member John Ridgway

WHEREAS, On September 1, 2011, John Ridgway retired from the Iowa Utilities Board after serving as Manager of Telecom for 11 years, *and*

WHEREAS, John earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from Upper Iowa University; *and*

WHEREAS, John is a member of the inaugural class of Leadership USA, and he is the past Chair of Leadership Iowa; *and*

WHEREAS, John began a 45-year career in telecommunications when in early 1966 he applied to be a lineman with Northwestern Bell Telephone Company; *and*

WHEREAS, John not only climbed the poles at Northwestern Bell Telephone, he also climbed the management ladder after mastering a wide variety of technical skills; *and*

WHEREAS, John advanced from construction, to engineering, to marketing, to long-range planning (which might explain why we are still dealing with USF and ICC reform) in the private sector of the telecommunications industry, *and*

WHEREAS, John was a valued member of the Qwest Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) and served as staff chair from 2005 to 2010; *and*

WHEREAS, John served NARUC in many capacities beginning in September 2000 on the Staff Subcommittee of Telecommunications; *and*

WHEREAS, John co-chaired the sub-group on Service Quality which drafted a White Paper which was adopted by the Executive Committee of NARUC; *and*

WHEREAS, John served on the Federal-State Board for Universal Service, the Joint Board on Separations, the 706 Joint Conference for Advanced Services, then became the Vice Chair of the Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications, and peaked as the Chair; *and*

WHEREAS, John worked diligently on the Missoula Plan, back when Montana was still a territory, *and*

WHEREAS, John was respected and well-liked by his associates at NARUC, both in his official duties and at social gatherings alike; *and*

WHEREAS, John understood both the business and the personal side of NARUC and excelled at both; *and*

WHEREAS, John's service to NARUC and the Iowa Utilities Board was just a small fraction of a long and varied career, *and*

WHEREAS, John never dreamed he would ever work in the regulatory side of telecommunications until that dark day came in July of 2000, when John was persuaded by a former Chair (unnamed for his protection) of the Iowa Utilities Board to begin work as a regulator; *and*

WHEREAS, John had been an accomplished collegiate swimmer and often used those skills to navigate his way through the often tumultuous NARUC waters to find support for resolutions sponsored by Commissioners who thought John might just need some extra work to do; *and*

WHEREAS, John had an uncanny ability to "sniff out" off-the-beaten path venues (normally an Irish Pub or Sports Bar) in every city NARUC has visited during his eleven year tenure at which he occasionally sipped a beer; *and*

WHEREAS, John spent many hours regaling his NARUC colleagues with stories about wild private sector telecom conventions of the past... wait, we better not go there; *and*

WHEREAS, John is a lifelong Dodgers fan and an adopted Cubs fan, and we don't know which was a worse predicament during this 2011 season; *and*

WHEREAS, John's telecom experience spans many decades, it is not true that upon inventing the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell shouted "Mr. Ridgway, come here;" *and*

WHEREAS, John was born in the twentieth century and not the nineteenth century, he is nevertheless older than dirt and has earned his retirement, pension, Social Security, Medicare, AARP card; *and*

WHEREAS, John's colleagues in the Telecom Industry, at the Iowa Utilities Board, and NARUC will miss his laid back devil-may-care attitude and his dedication to the advancement of telecommunications, public service, and his vast knowledge and experience; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2011 Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, extends to John Ridgway of Iowa its sincere thanks and appreciation for his dedicated and distinguished service to NARUC and the State of Iowa; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC Board of Directors wishes John Ridgway a happy, healthy, and active retirement.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors November 15, 2011

Adopted by the NARUC Committee of the Whole November 16, 2011