

### ***Resolution Honoring Michael Copps***

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Michael Copps was sworn in for his first term as Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on May 31, 2001; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Copps was sworn in for a second term on January 3, 2006, and served until December 31, 2011; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Copps also served as Acting Chairman from January 22, 2009, through June 29, 2009; *and*

**WHEREAS**, His years at the FCC have been highlighted by his strong defense of “the public interest;” outreach to what he calls “non-traditional stakeholders” in the decisions of the FCC, particularly minorities, Native Americans and the various disabilities communities; and actions to stem the tide of what he regards as excessive consolidation in the nation’s media and telecommunications industries; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Copps should be applauded for his valiant efforts to safeguard the public interest with regards to media consolidation; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Copps has worked tirelessly during his FCC tenure to identify and remedy discrimination between competitors within the telecommunications industry; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Copps served as a member of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, the Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Services (“706 Joint Conference”), and NARUC’s Committee on Consumer Affairs; *and*

**WHEREAS**, While serving on both Joint Board and Joint Conference, Commissioner Copps was a consistent voice in support of broadband build out, and a persistent critic of decision making which is not solidly based on hard data; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Throughout his service on the aforementioned entities, Commissioner Copps was a friend both to his State colleagues and of a vigorous role for the States in the shaping of communications policy; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Copps moved to Washington in 1970, joined the staff of Senator Fritz Hollings (D-SC) and served for over a dozen years as Hollings’ Chief of Staff; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Following his years with Senator Hollings, Commissioner Copps held positions in the private sector with a Fortune 500 company and a major trade association; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Following the election of then-President Bill Clinton, Commissioner Copps returned to public service, serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary, and then Assistant Secretary, for Trade Development at the U.S. Department of Commerce; *and*

**WHEREAS**, While at Commerce, Commissioner Copps worked to build public sector-private sector partnerships to improve global market access and market share for nearly every sector of American industry, including information technologies and telecommunications; *and*

**WHEREAS**, He managed to survive the rigors of such eccentricities as Otelia Connor, AKA “Miss Otelia<sup>1</sup>,” the widow of a tobacco executive and self-appointed “Miss Manners of the South,” who dispensed swift justice on ill-mannered male students with a smack of her trusty umbrella; and Nyle Frank<sup>2</sup>, political science graduate student and competitive bodybuilder who later started his own shadow institution of higher learning, the “Invisible University of North Carolina,” of which he was self-appointed dictator, and later, “King of the Invisible Kingdom.” It was perhaps this experience which prepared Commissioner Copps to skillfully navigate the treacherous environs of the nation’s capital; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Copps, a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, earned his B.A. from Wofford College and his Ph.D. in U.S. History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; he also received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Wofford College; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Copps taught U.S. History at Loyola University in New Orleans, La. prior to locating to Washington, and was subsequently honored by his *alma mater* with an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree; *now, therefore be it*

**RESOLVED**, That on behalf of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the Board of Directors, convened at its 2012 Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, D.C., extends its sincere appreciation to Commissioner Michael Copps for his years of public service to the consumers of America, and wishes him great success in all his future endeavors.

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*Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications*  
*Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, February 8, 2012*

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<sup>1</sup> “Miss Otelia” reference: <http://time-demo.newscred.com/article/cafcd4544342ec09716f98ca4b4a9a9e.html/edit>

<sup>2</sup> Nyle Frank reference: <http://www.carrboro.com/nylefrankbio.html>