Resolution Honoring South Carolina Chairman David A. Wright

WHEREAS, On March 3, 2004, in a special session of the South Carolina General Assembly, David A. Wright was elected to the South Carolina Public Service Commission (SC PSC) from the Second Congressional District to serve as one of seven elected commissioners. In July 2012, he was sworn in as Chairman of the SC PSC; and

WHEREAS, After his election, David accepted active roles in many phases of commission activities locally, regionally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, In November 2011, in St. Louis, David was elected by his peers around the country to serve as President of NARUC for 2011-2012. Commissioner Wright also served as a member of NARUC’s Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Additionally, he served on NARUC’s Electricity Committee, Washington Action Committee and Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues and Waste Disposal, for which he is a past Chairman; and

WHEREAS, David is a Past President of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (SEARUC); and

WHEREAS, From 2006 until 2013, David served as Chairman of the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition (NWSC), an organization he served on as a representative and Board member from South Carolina since 2004; and

WHEREAS, From 2010 to 2013, Commissioner Wright served as NARUC’s representative on the Advisory Board of the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Board of Directors and served as a NARUC representative on the Keystone Energy Board; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright made numerous appearances before U.S. congressional committees, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright was published in the Washington Post about pressuring Congress and the Obama administration to adopt policies and find a home for nuclear waste; and

WHEREAS, In roles including NARUC President, Chairman of the NARUC Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues—Waste Disposal, Chairman of the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition, and Chairman of the Yucca Mountain Task Force, David Wright testified before Congress and the Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future; collaborated with key federal, tribal, State, and local government officials and other stakeholders; advanced policy positions; wrote columns; and otherwise worked relentlessly on issues pertaining to the federal government’s delay in the removal and disposal of used nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste in return for the fees paid by electric consumers in South Carolina and across the country; and

WHEREAS, David Wright was formally recognized during the NARUC Annual Meetings in Baltimore in November 2012 by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition (NWSC) for his leadership on issues related to nuclear energy and used
nuclear fuel, especially during his tenure as President of NARUC and Chairman of the NWSC; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Wright was a 1977 graduate of Clemson University, with a degree in political science and a three-year letterman on the Clemson Tiger Cross-Country Team; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his election to the South Carolina Public Service Commission, David had been self-employed for more than 25 years, having owned and/or operated retail, commercial and professional services businesses. He has an extensive background in retail, commercial and political advertising and public relations, and has worked as a strategic consultant in all areas. Adding to his broad and varied background, David has his real estate license and is a licensed auctioneer in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, A colon cancer survivor, David is active as an advocate for cancer awareness and education and is frequently asked to share his message with groups around the State. David is also a member of the Leadership Council for the Cancer Centers at the University of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Prior to his election as a Commissioner, David already had a distinguished career of public service, serving as both councilman and Mayor of the Town of Irmo, South Carolina. He also served as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives for eight years. In 1996, David received South Carolina’s highest citizen honor, “The Order of the Palmetto.” In 1992, he received the U.S. Jaycees “Outstanding Young American Award” in the field of Community Service for the State of South Carolina. David is an active Rotarian, having served as a club president and as an Assistant District Governor. In his spare time, David works regularly as an umpire for Dixie Youth and USSSA youth baseball and as a basketball referee; and

WHEREAS, NARUC will miss Commissioner Wright’s integrity, strong leadership and valuable contributions in a multitude of NARUC activities; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 125th Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, extends its gratitude to Commissioner Wright for his service to NARUC, South Carolina and the citizens of the United States and their best wishes to Mr. Wright in his future endeavors with “Wright Directions, LLC.”

Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity
Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors November 19, 2013
Adopted by the NARUC Committee of the Whole November 20, 2013