

Resolution on LIHEAP Funding

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) recognizes adequate utility service to be a vital key to the health and safety of American households; *and*

WHEREAS, The need for energy assistance is growing rapidly during the current recession, at the same time that severe constraints on State budgets and the increased strain on the nation's support system provided by nonprofit, faith-based, and other community organizations have limited the resources available for energy assistance; *and*

WHEREAS, The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides vital heating and cooling assistance to low-income families, including households with working poor, senior citizens, very young children, and persons with disabilities; *and*

WHEREAS, Arrearages and service disconnections are increasing and electric and gas companies are being forced to write off increasing levels of revenue due to consumers being unable to pay bills; *and*

WHEREAS, In Fiscal Year 2009, LIHEAP received a record level of funding at \$5.1 billion and this level of funding was continued in Fiscal Year 2010; *and*

WHEREAS, The aggregate \$5.1 billion funding level in Fiscal Year 2010 has allowed assistance to go to an estimated 7.3 million households, an increase of 1.5 million households, as well as increase the average grant from \$332 to \$546; *and*

WHEREAS, The \$5.1 billion provided by Congress has been extremely important as the nation suffers through the worst recession and economic crisis in a generation; *and*

WHEREAS, Should Congress not maintain this level of LIHEAP funding it will undermine and threaten the continuation of a number of State initiatives that have relied on the LIHEAP program to be the foundation for providing a modest amount of energy security for low-income Americans; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2010 Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, D.C., urges Congress to maintain the current level of LIHEAP funding by appropriating for Fiscal Year 2011 no less than \$5.1 billion dollars, and to provide an advance LIHEAP appropriation for Fiscal Year 2012 of no less than \$5.1 billion.

Sponsored by the Committee on Consumer Affairs

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors February 17, 2010