Resolution Urging DOE to Consider Recommendations of the National Research Council’s Committee on Point-of-Use and Full-Fuel-Cycle Measurement Approaches to Energy Efficiency Standards

WHEREAS, Section 1802 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 called upon DOE to have the National Academy of Sciences conduct a study of our energy efficiency standards, particularly whether energy efficiency should be measured only at the site of the energy consumption or from the source of energy production to its end-use; and

WHEREAS, In response to a request from DOE to conduct the study, the National Academies’ National Research Council (NRC) Committee on Point-of-Use and Full-Fuel-Cycle Measurement submitted the completed study to DOE on May 15, 2009, after an extensive deliberation and analysis; and

WHEREAS, The NRC Committee’s primary general recommendation is that “DOE/EERE consider moving over time to use of a full-fuel cycle measure of energy consumption for assessment of national and environmental impacts, especially levels of greenhouse gas emissions, and to providing more comprehensive information to the public through labels and other means, such as an enhanced website;” and

WHEREAS, the NRC Committee recommended that for appliances for which there is a choice of fuel such as storage water heaters and heating equipment, efficiency ratings should be calculated using the extended site measure of energy consumption until DOE/EERE can consider and complete a transition to the use of the full-fuel-cycle measure of energy consumption; and

WHEREAS, NRC further recommends DOE/EERE and the Federal Trade Commission should initiate a project to consider the merits of adding to the Energy Guide label an indicator of how an appliance’s total energy consumption might affect levels of greenhouse gas emissions; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2009 Summer Committee Meetings in Seattle, Washington, urges DOE to consider the Recommendations of the National Research Council’s Committee on Point-of-Use and Full-Fuel-Cycle Measurement Approaches to Energy Efficiency Standards.

Sponsored by the Committees on Gas and Energy Resources and the Environment
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, July 22, 2009