

Honorary Resolution for Commissioner Robert B. Nelson of Michigan

WHEREAS, On July 2, 2005, Michigan Public Service Commissioner Robert B. Nelson completed a stellar six year plus run of public service to the citizens of the State of Michigan and of the United States of America; *and*

WHEREAS, Because of his extensive background of public service, he was able to hit the ground running as a Michigan Commissioner when he was appointed by Governor John Engler on May 10, 1999, and subsequently reappointed for the second term that ended July 2, 2005; *and*

WHEREAS, Before his appointment to the commission, Commissioner Nelson served as President of the Michigan Electric and Gas Association from December 1987 until his appointment in 1999, but prior to that post, he was again in public service for 17 years, serving as the Michigan Public Service Commission's Director of the Office of Regulatory and Consumer Affairs, overseeing the legislative, legal, public affairs and consumer services functions from 1979 to 1987; the Commission's Assistant and Deputy Director of Policy at the Commission from 1976 to 1979; acting as an Assistant and, later, Senior Assistant Prosecutor for Ingham County From 1974 to 1976, and, also, from 1970 to 1974, working as a trial attorney for the Federal Communications Commission; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Nelson previously served as Chairman of the Administrative Law Section of the Michigan Bar Association and as Chairman of the East Lansing Cable and Telecommunications Commission; *and*

WHEREAS, In NARUC, Commissioner Nelson has racked up a significant record of public service for such a relatively short tenure, testifying on NARUC's behalf on Capital Hill, serving as a NARUC representative to the critical Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service and to the North American Numbering Counsel, chairing the NARUC Committee on Telecommunications, serving as member of the NARUC Committee on Consumer Affairs, and instigating and participating on an impressive number of Committee and NARUC Presidential Task Forces, including the NARUC ETC Designation Task Force, the NARUC Intercarrier Compensation Task Force, the NARUC Legislative Task Force, the NARUC Triennial Review Task Force, the NARUC Inter-Commission Emissaries (NICE) Task Force; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Nelson has also served NARUC as a member of the Advisory Councils for the Institute for Public Utilities at Michigan State University and the Center for Public Utilities at New Mexico University; *and*

WHEREAS, Robert Nelson's golfing prowess has earned him lifetime privileges at the MARC regional golf tournament; this, tragically, is also the amount of time it will take him and other unnamed commissioners to get their names back on the trophy; *and*

WHEREAS, Robert "Byron" Nelson earned his nickname "The Propeller" by recording numbers on scorecards during commissioner golf outings that also, coincidentally, have been recognized by Science Digest as the largest prime numbers yet discovered by the human race; *and*

WHEREAS, Robert Nelson, affectionately known by some as "The Tiny Tim of Ypsilanti" and others as "The Bobby Sherman of Ann Arbor", would exercise his hypnotic, satin-like vocal prowess at strategic moments of important telecom policy debate to achieve desired results; *and*

WHEREAS, Robert Nelson is a man of outstanding character and principle who served as an influential role model for a following class of State commissioners that is now charged with filling his enormous shoes as they attempt to carry on with the critically important work he initiated; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Nelson has proven to be a repository of knowledge and wisdom, providing aid and assistance to those of us fortunate enough to come within his sphere of influence; being always ready to give sound advice grounded in his keen insights, formidable intellect, unwavering commitment to public policy, uniquely articulate capacity for self-expression, unflappable manner, and (always) good humor, which he consistently maintained no matter how contentious the debate or difficult the issue; *and*

WHEREAS, His associates in NARUC, the industry, and the Michigan PSC will miss his dedication to public service and vast knowledge and experience on regulatory issues across all industry sectors; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its July 2005 Summer Committee Meeting in Austin, Texas, extends to the Honorable Robert Nelson of Michigan its sincere thanks and appreciation for his dedicated and distinguished service to NARUC and the State of Michigan; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC Board of Directors wishes Commissioner Nelson the best of luck and continued success in his future endeavors.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications and the Committee on Consumer Affairs
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors July 27, 2005*