

Resolution Supporting the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and Integrated Resource Planning Programs

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) program support for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) has strengthened the ability of state commissions to expand the options available to meet electricity demands and the public interest in the electric system; *and*

WHEREAS, Section 115 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 established the IRP program to encourage individual States and utilities to effectively integrate all sources of power supplies, including alternative fuels, into utility resource plans, to increase efficient use of energy while continuing to provide reliable services, and to reduce negative environmental impacts; *and*

WHEREAS, The House of Representatives recently passed legislation (H.R. 1977) which reduced funding for DOE's Office of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and provided no funding for DOE's IRP program for fiscal year 1996, and the Senate will soon begin to consider H.R. 1977; *and*

WHEREAS, It is estimated that despite the trend toward competition, utilities face the prospect of having to invest an estimated \$200 billion over the next twenty years in order to meet the rising demand for energy while ratepayers demand low-cost energy supplies and investments in efficient and environmentally beneficial energy sources; *and*

WHEREAS, Today, States are challenged with the difficult tasks of balancing these interests in a rapidly changing environment and the DOE, through its Office of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency and IRP programs has been, and continues to be, of key importance in meeting this challenge; *and*

WHEREAS, Applying IRP will enable utilities and State commissions to make wiser, long-term investments into energy efficient sources of energy, which will ultimately foster reductions in capacity requirements and related capital costs, making utilities more competitive in the long term; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its 1995 Summer Meeting held in San Francisco, California, hereby reiterates its support for and participation in the U.S. Department of Energy's Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) program; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC supports Federal funding for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and IRP programs at levels consistent with the fiscal year 1996 budget request; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That if the Congress feels compelled to reduce Department of Energy funding due to an increasingly constrained Federal budget, a level of funding should be provided that would enable the U.S. Department of Energy to continue to effectively implement these most important programs for the benefit of the States, utilities and utility ratepayers.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Energy Conservation
Adopted July 26, 1995*