Resolution Supporting Federal Legislation To Combat Caller Identification Spoofing

WHEREAS, Congress is considering legislation to prohibit the intentional falsification of the name or number that appears on a consumer's caller identification (ID) display, commonly referred to as “caller ID spoofing”; and

WHEREAS, The Truth in Caller ID Act of 2006, H.R. 5126, would make it unlawful for a person, in connection with any telecommunications service or VOIP service, to cause any caller identification service to transmit misleading or inaccurate caller identification information with the intent to defraud or cause harm; and

WHEREAS, The use of Internet technology to make telephone calls has made Caller ID spoofing easier; and

WHEREAS, Caller ID spoofing may be used for fraudulent or deceptive purposes which could harm consumers and lessen consumers’ trust in the telecommunications industry; and

WHEREAS, Caller ID spoofing may also threaten public safety by fabricating emergency calls and thereby diverting public safety resources away from real emergencies; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is attempting to address this problem through enforcement actions and coordination with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC); and

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Commissioners (NARUC) and its member States have consistently supported and encouraged consumer protection and safety issues; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its 2006 Summer Meetings in San Francisco, California, expresses its support for Federal legislation that would make it unlawful for a person to transmit misleading or inaccurate caller identification information with the intent to defraud or cause harm; and be it further

RESOLVED, That NARUC is committed to working with Congress, the FCC, the FTC, and the industry on a comprehensive approach to this issue in order to educate and protect consumers from caller ID spoofing.

Sponsored by the Committees on Telecommunications and Consumer Affairs
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors August 2, 2006