

Resolution Relating To Voice Over The Internet Telecommunications

WHEREAS, The Internet is providing opportunities for new methods to originate, transport, and terminate telecommunications, but is also providing new regulatory challenges, and

WHEREAS, AT&T Corp has filed a petition with the Federal Communications Commission requesting in part that the FCC prevent local exchange carriers from assessing interstate access charges on certain phone-to-phone Voice Over Internet Protocol services, pending adoption of final federal rules, and

WHEREAS, In 1998 the FCC reached a tentative conclusion that certain phone-to-phone IP calls may be telecommunications services, even if the carrier converts such a call to IP format and back again, and that a user who receives only voice transmission without other enhancements is receiving a telecommunications service, not an information service, and

WHEREAS, A decision by the FCC, in this docket or elsewhere, to declare all phone-to-phone calls over IP networks to be information services by virtue of the technology could have negative effects on various telecommunications policies, including universal service, and might be inconsistent with the 1996 Act, and

WHEREAS, Voice over the Internet Protocol and intercarrier compensation issues are inextricably linked, and

WHEREAS, A significant portion of the nation's total voice

traffic could be transported on IP networks within a few years,
now therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened in its February, 2003 Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C., that the FCC should confirm its tentative decision that certain phone-to-phone calls over IP networks are telecommunications services, and be it further

RESOLVED, That NARUC asks the 706 Joint Conference to systematically address issues relating to Voice Over the Internet Protocol and to explore, with the States and the appropriate joint boards, and with industry, mutually satisfactory methods of dealing with the related jurisdictional rate and separations issues, including but not limited to reviewing, revising and simplifying the varied existing intercarrier compensation regimes while preserving universal service, and be it further

RESOLVED, That NARUC's General Counsel should file with the FCC comments and ex parte presentations consistent with this resolution.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors February 26, 2003