

Resolution Supporting the "Water Investment Act of 2002"

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) previously has resolved to support reform and improvements in the nation's programs for funding water infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a series of hearings on water infrastructure needs, hearing from stakeholders from a variety of perspectives; and

WHEREAS, The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works favorably reported S.1961, the "Water Investment Act of 2002"; and

WHEREAS, S.1961 improves and reforms the present system of federal funding that is available for water and wastewater infrastructure and substantially increases the amount of federal funding for water infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, S.1961 makes a key change to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act by allowing investor-owned wastewater utilities to receive funding for the first time; and

WHEREAS, S.1961 contains additional provisions to discourage the States, in implementing the State Revolving Loan programs, from excluding investor-owned utilities from receiving funding; and

WHEREAS, S.1961 expands capacity development provisions that provide assistance to small systems in achieving the basic technical, managerial, and financial capability to properly

operate their systems; and

WHEREAS, S.1961 requires funding recipients to consider restructuring options such as consolidation of ownership or management, forming public-private partnerships, or using non-structural alternatives or technologies; and

WHEREAS, S. 1961 requires funding recipients to have in place, or plan to have in place, a rate structure that reflects the actual cost of providing service, as well as an asset management plan to assure necessary infrastructure investment in the future; and

WHEREAS, The timely passage of the Water Investments Act of 2002 is in the public interest and will benefit water and wastewater utilities and their customers throughout the Country; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its July 2002 Summer Committee Meeting in Portland, Oregon, supports and encourages the timely passage of S.1961, the Water Investments Act of 2002; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the NARUC through its Water Committee and the appropriate NARUC officers and administration continue to monitor S.1961 and other water infrastructure legislation and provide input and comments to Congress consistent with this and past comments and statements of policy.

Sponsored by the Committee on Water

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors July 31, 2002