

Resolution Supporting the Second National Drinking Water Symposium to be Held in the Year 2003

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**WHEREAS**, Water utilities treat and distribute a resource for which there is no substitute and which directly affects the health and safety of the public and economic vitality of the communities they serve; and

**WHEREAS**, Cost estimates of community drinking water infrastructure remediation needs nationwide over the next 20 years range from \$150.9 billion (U.S. EPA Infrastructure Needs Study, 1999) to \$1 trillion (Water Infrastructure Network Report, 2000); and

**WHEREAS**, Increased critical infrastructure security costs are placing more pressure on water utility rates; and

**WHEREAS**, On March 24-26, 2002, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), the National Association of Water Companies (NAWC), and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) co-sponsored the first National Drinking Water Symposium in St. Petersburg, Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, The Symposium was made possible, in part, by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA); and

**WHEREAS**, The issues discussed during the first Symposium included (i) The increasing cost to provide water service due, in part, to the widespread need to replace aging infrastructure, meet more stringent Safe Drinking Water Act requirements and take additional measures to meet new security challenges; (ii)

The beneficial role of regionalization to increase water system capacity development for small, troubled systems; (iii) Incorporating the influences of increasing globalization; (iv) How to enhance inter-agency coordination to maximize effective and comprehensive regulatory solutions; and (v) Utilizing innovative regulatory mechanisms to help keep rates reasonable; and

**WHEREAS**, Due to the useful information generated by the first Symposium, participants are calling for a second Symposium to develop a better public understanding of water resources and the challenges involved in the provision of safe and adequate supplies, both nationally and internationally; and continue discussions on key issues of importance to NARUC members, including (i) Current water supply and protection challenges, considering resource constraints and the needs of immunocompromised or otherwise sensitive populations; (ii) International best practices and applicable implementation in the United States; (iii) Innovative regulatory mechanisms to enable necessary water quality and adequate quantity at reasonable rates; and (iv) Capacity development, by holding a second, more-in depth workshop to further interagency regulatory coordination and effectiveness; and

**WHEREAS**, NARUC has a continuing, growing, and mutually beneficial relationship with the U.S. EPA, ASDWA, NAWC, and other drinking water industry stakeholders; 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 Meetings in Portland,

Oregon, believes it is essential that key stakeholders, NARUC, the U.S. EPA, NAWC, and ASDWA, continue to work together to address these needs in a coordinated and focused effort and extends its thanks to its co-sponsors and to the U.S. EPA for their contributions in sponsoring the first Symposium; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That holding a second Symposium of key stakeholders will build on the momentum initiated last March and further our ability to assist State commissions and other stakeholders to ensure that jurisdictional water utilities continue to provide safe and reliable drinking water as cost effectively as possible into the future; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That, assuming the identification of a satisfactory funding mechanism, NARUC co-sponsor the second National Drinking Water Symposium in the year 2003 to continue the work of the first Symposium to ensure safe and reliable drinking water at reasonable rates for the future.

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Sponsored by the Committee on Water and the Committee on International Relations

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors July 31, 2002