

Resolution Concerning Wireless Number Portability

WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission has denied the petition for permanent forbearance of the requirement that wireless carriers provide number portability, and has set the final deadline for implementation of wireless number portability at November 24, 2003; and

WHEREAS, in the past, wireless carrier anticipation of further delays from portability deadlines has resulted in questions raised as to carrier progress towards meeting the FCC time requirements; and

WHEREAS, in efforts to implement wireless number portability to date, a frequent concern has been raised by the wireless industry as to the ability of smaller carriers to implement the changes necessary to enable consumers to enjoy portability throughout the underlying carriers' service areas, and also as to the difficulties wireless carriers have in preparing their sales and service staffs to work with the new functionality of number portability; and

WHEREAS, Consumer inability to retain wireless phone numbers has resulted in barriers to consumers from switching between carriers; and

WHEREAS, A recent Harris Interactive poll found that 56 percent of mobile phone users surveyed said it was "extremely or very" important to keep their phone number; now therefore be it further

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, encourages all wireless carriers to implement number portability prior to the November 24, 2003 date imposed by the FCC; and be it further

RESOLVED, That NARUC encourages the FCC to obtain frequent status reports from the wireless industry and its vendors concerning its preparations to meet the FCC deadline, with particular attention to the question of preparedness of sales and service personnel to implement wireless number portability, and to the progress being made by small wireless providers in preparing to implement wireless number portability.

Sponsored by the Committee on Consumer Affairs

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors July 31, 2002