

Resolution Proclaiming National Telephone Discount Lifeline Awareness Week

WHEREAS, In today's highly interconnected world, telephones provide a lifeline to emergency help and a vital link to friends and family; *and*

WHEREAS, Not everyone can afford the cost of a home telephone; *and*

WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the State public utility commissions have joined in a collaborative effort to make telephone service more affordable for the nation's low-income consumers by providing a discount on the connection fee and monthly recurring charge for local telephone service; *and*

WHEREAS, The Link-Up America (Link-Up) and Lifeline Assistance (Lifeline) programs offer tremendous benefits for eligible consumers in America and make basic telephone service more affordable; *and*

WHEREAS, The Link-Up program provides a generous discount to eligible consumers on the installation of telephone service in their homes; *and*

WHEREAS, The Lifeline program provides a discount to eligible low-income customers on their monthly phone bill; *and*

WHEREAS, The federal Link-Up and Lifeline programs are available to eligible consumers in every State, territory, and commonwealth; *and*

WHEREAS, The FCC has established Enhanced Link-Up and Lifeline programs for Tribal Lands; *and*

WHEREAS, Consumers should not be without local phone service because they cannot afford it, and therefore the promotion of Link-Up and Lifeline is imperative to ensure that all U.S. consumers have access to affordable basic local telephone service; *and*

WHEREAS, The FCC, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA), other State and federal agencies, cities, counties, organizations, and telecommunications companies are committed to increasing awareness about the availability of the Link-Up and Lifeline programs and are encouraging eligible consumers to sign up for the programs; *and*

WHEREAS, The FCC, NARUC, and NASUCA have joined together to design and implement a comprehensive outreach plan, "Telephone Discount Lifeline Across America," to promote Link-Up and Lifeline subscribership; *and*

WHEREAS, A number of our nation's households still do not have telephone service in their homes; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2009 Summer Committee Meetings in Seattle, Washington, urges the FCC and State commissions, NASUCA, and eligible telecommunications carriers to proclaim the first full week in September following the week of Labor Day as National Telephone Discount Lifeline Awareness Week and further initiate and promote outreach events during this special week that support “Telephone Discount Lifeline Across America.”

*Sponsored by the Committees on Consumer Affairs and Telecommunications
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors, July 22, 2009*