

Honorary Resolution for Maurice “Gene” Hand (NE)

WHEREAS, Gene announced, again, that he would hold off on his retirement until late 2016 to handle one more issue or be assigned to one more committee for his Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) Commissioners and to re-assure himself that the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Telecommunications Staff Subcommittee would survive without him; *and*

WHEREAS, Gene feels he has finally written, rewritten, sponsored, commented on, and tabled the maximum number of resolutions allowed under the NARUC bylaws; *and*

WHEREAS, When Gene first started attending the Annual National Conference of Regulatory Utility Commission Engineer (NCRUCE) meetings nobody could remember seeing Gene except at the registration desk and the nightly functions wherein some of us finally figured out that Gene’s love of golf was trumping his meeting attendance. Gene did eventually start attending meetings and ultimately became the President of the NCRUCE; *and*

WHEREAS, Gene is well remembered as a member of the singing group, “The Enginerds,” which performed oldies (with lyrics changed to reflect current Telecom issues) at NCRUCE annual meetings, in St Petersburg, Florida and Lansing, Michigan and wherein one person recalls that this singing group was so bad that they were good; *and*

WHEREAS, At the 2014 NARUC Summer Meetings, Gene proposed a resolution supporting the University of Nebraska Regents’ plan to cover Memorial Stadium, football home to the Cornhuskers, in cardboard. Upon questioning as to why the resolution was relevant, Gene responded, “Because the Cornhuskers always looked better on paper”; *and*

WHEREAS, At the 2015 NARUC Winter Committee Meetings, Gene proposed a resolution soliciting NARUC member support in securing a website for the Cornhusker football team. When questioned why the Cornhuskers couldn’t secure its own site, Gene stated that, “Nebraska couldn’t string 3 W’s together”; *and*

WHEREAS, Gene, well known around NARUC circles for his depth of knowledge and great patience, is perhaps lesser known for his prodigious skills in the breeding and racing of greyhounds, and his masterly management of a 5-star Lincoln, Nebraska, bed and breakfast called the Hand Hotel..... where his wife Karen is really the CEO; *and*

WHEREAS, Gene is perhaps the most generous man in the hospitable land of Lincoln, Nebraska, allowing many a foreigner to overnight at his humble home, offering them food, plenty of drink, and a place to rest after a hard day’s ride, and has carried the same spirit of this Midwestern welcome to new NARUC staffers and Commissioners, offering his expertise in training them in the ways of NARUC; *and*

WHEREAS, Gene always sits tall in the saddle and is welcome and is invited at any time at all, to ride his pony on over to visit his high plains cousins in “Big Wonderful Wyoming” to sit around the campfire at night and sing sad songs about universal service to the jackalopes; *and*

WHEREAS, Gene may appear an imposing sight, but to get to know him is to discover a gentle giant incapable of anger, unless the discussion involves the Huskers losing to the Ohio State Buckeyes (again), Bo Pellini, USF, or some renegade commissioner from Omaha; *and*

WHEREAS, Gene started with the Nebraska Public Service Commission in 1976 and has been the Telecommunications Director since before anyone can remember, but rarely actually uses the telephone while in the office or at home, preferring instead to use a more old fashioned method of communication by yelling out to his colleagues/wife, “[*Insert last name of person here*], you out there? I need something!,” whereupon whomever has been summoned must walk to wherever Gene might be to inquire as to whatever Gene might need; *and*

WHEREAS, With this resolution, Gene joins a long list of notable Nebraskans, including such greats as Gerald Ford, Johnny Carson, Warren Buffet, Fred Astaire, Buffalo Bill Cody, Henry Fonda, Bob Gibson, and the acting legend, Marlon Brando, to which Gene perhaps compares himself, but his friends believe he is perhaps more comparable to Nebraska native Larry the Cable Guy; *and*

WHEREAS, As General George S. Patton once said, “We herd sheep, we drive cattle, we lead people,” and Gene has been a tremendous leader of people during his years at the Nebraska PSC and within the halls of NARUC, although at times it seems his greatest leadership skill may have been that of herding, not sheep, but cats; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2016 Summer Meetings in Nashville, Tennessee, extends its sincere appreciation to Maurice “Gene” Hand for his many years of public service to the State of Nebraska and to NARUC and wishes him great success in all his future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on July 27, 2016