

***Resolution Honoring Chairman Jim Gardner of Kentucky***

**WHEREAS**, Governor Steve Beshear appointed Jim Gardner as vice chairman of the Kentucky Public Service Commission in June 2008, and elevated him to be Chair of the Commission in October 2015; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Chairman Gardner was elected to the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council in 1982 and served until 1986, and was a member of the Fayette County Board of Education from 1993 to 1997, serving as its chairman from 1995 to 1997; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Chairman Gardner received his Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics from Georgetown College, graduating summa cum laude, and holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Kentucky College of Law, where he was a member of the *Kentucky Law Journal* and Order of the Coif; *and*

**WHEREAS**, During his term on the Kentucky Public Service Commission, Chairman Gardner served the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) as Chair of the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment (ERE) with dynamic leadership and integrity; *and*

**WHEREAS**, In addition to his leadership of that Committee, Chairman Gardner also served on the NARUC Board of Directors, chaired the Task Force on Environmental Regulation and Generation, chaired NARUC's Subcommittee on Education and Research, was a member of the Committee on Consumer Affairs; *and*

**WHEREAS**, During Chairman Gardner's tenure as Chair, NARUC's ERE Committee continued to grow in stature in addressing issues; grew in membership expertise; and exerted valuable influence on climate, environmental, and resource diversity issues; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Chairman Gardner served the public interest not only with the expertise of an economic regulator, but with a deep understanding of the implications of environmental regulations, which he shared prolifically and tirelessly beginning in 2009 as co-chair of the Utility of the Future in a Carbon Constrained World conference, as a member of NARUC's Task Force on Climate Policy, as a co-chair of the Task Force on Environmental Regulation and Generation, and as an essential participant in the air-energy "3N" collaboration, as well as during countless presentations in a time of ever-increasing intersection between utility regulation and environmental constraint; *and*

**WHEREAS**, As Chairman, Jim Gardner was noted for his strong leadership and successful rapport with his Committee colleagues, NARUC members, environmental officials, congressional members and staff, and federal agency commissioners and staff; *and*

**WHEREAS**, While serving as ERE Chair, Chairman Gardner was simultaneously adept at addressing the *terra incognita* issues of cybersecurity in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, not only with regulated utilities, but also with unregulated public power entities, by trailblazing new

partnerships and fostering trust on an uneasy and difficult issue, moving Kentucky's cyber-preparedness to an entirely new level; *and*

**WHEREAS**, During his eight-year tenure on the Kentucky Public Service Commission, James Gardner's keen intelligence and unassuming manner, his dedication to his work, his attention to detail, and his kindness and graciousness earned him the respect and affection of the Commission staff and all who came before the Commission; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Jim Gardner provided invaluable intellectual and legal leadership to the Kentucky Public Service Commission at a time when it was addressing difficult and complex issues arising from transformational changes in the national and State energy sectors; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Upon assuming the chairmanship of the Kentucky Public Service Commission, Gardner began convening hearings at the hitherto-unheard-of hour of precisely 9 am (a period that came to be known as "the reign of terror"), thereby awakening in the commission staff a new sense of purpose; *and*

**WHEREAS**, As Chairman, Gardner was appreciated for the forthright expression of his views, his willingness to explore problems, and his resourcefulness in finding solutions to difficult issues; *and*

**WHEREAS**, From Amman to Atlanta, Chairman Gardner was an expert at blending with the locals, as at-ease with barbecue as with babaganoush, and able to greet everyone with equal openness whether with a "salaam alekom" or a "howdy, friend;" *and*

**WHEREAS**, James Gardner enthusiastically supported NARUC's international efforts by taking an active role in Kentucky's bilateral partnerships with regulators in the Republic of Georgia and Nigeria, and by leading the first Kentucky delegation to Georgia, during the course of which visit he became closely acquainted with the traditions of the Georgian people *supra*; *and*

**WHEREAS**, His direct and honest approach, constant optimism, and ability to convey the broader perspectives will be greatly missed by the ERE and International Committees, their Staff Subcommittees, and his NARUC colleagues; *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 and expresses its utmost and sincere appreciation and gratitude to Chairman Jim Gardner by recognizing his outstanding public service and conveys to him its best wishes in all of his future endeavors.

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*Sponsored by the Committees on Energy Resources and the Environment  
and Sponsored by the Committee on International Relations  
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on July 27, 2016*