

Resolution Honoring Thomas Wilson

Whereas Thomas Wilson served for more than three decades in public service until his retirement in 2018;

Whereas Thomas Wilson served under an extensive array of State Commissioners in two states;

Whereas Thomas Wilson earned his master's degree in economics from the University of Wyoming;

Whereas Thomas Wilson served as a senior economic expert for the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission, the Digital Divide Office of Washington State University and for the Wyoming Public Utilities Commission during his long career;

Whereas Thomas Wilson has always shared his expertise and provided guidance to others, whether novice or a fellow expert;

Whereas Thomas Wilson has traveled nationally and internationally at the behest of numerous national and international organizations;

Whereas Thomas Wilson is a recognized leader on the national level and proactive in trying to assist other states, always insisting on a high level of customer service by electric, gas, water, and telecommunications utilities for all customers;

Whereas Thomas Wilson helped start SNAP, the federal-state consumer issues State National Action Plan, introducing the resolution by singing it to the tune of the Addams Family theme song;

Whereas Thomas Wilson did early work prior to the passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act with many other states through the Subcommittee on Number Portability, OSS, Bill and Keep, and Interconnection;

Whereas Thomas Wilson was educated at the University of Wyoming; he and his beloved wife reside in Cheyenne; he is the proud father of two grown daughters, and three grandsons;

Whereas Thomas Wilson's devotion to a life of public service is admired;

Whereas Thomas Wilson's commitment to fact-based public policy and to doing the right thing made him an honorable public servant; he was never afraid to voice his opinion, even in the face of adversity;

Whereas Thomas Wilson through his career and research endeavors became one of the country's experts on regulatory policy and was called upon to participate in countless national conversations to provide the regulatory perspective;

Whereas Thomas Wilson participated in the landmark Federal-State Rural Task Force that probed broadband availability and use in rural America;

Whereas his contributions and insights were invaluable;

Whereas Thomas Wilson was appreciated for his passionate concerns for consumers and known for taking

on issues no matter how complicated and contentious; moreover, Thomas Wilson's clear dedication to public service was invaluable not only to fellow Wyoming and Washington Commission members, but to the entire national and international community of regulators;

Whereas Thomas Wilson worked in Kenya, South Africa, and Botswana to help twelve African universities create bachelor's and master's degrees in regulatory economics, making great friends along the way;

Whereas Thomas Wilson could always be counted on to shock and surprise with his eloquent quotes of lengthy passages from Aristotle, Plato, and Shakespeare, demonstrating exquisite timing and the broad breadth of his fine education, before launching into detail-driven economic analysis and debate;

Whereas Thomas Wilson was an athlete who shared his love of skiing, biking, and the great western expanses of Washington and Wyoming with his family, friends, and professional cohorts;

Whereas Thomas Wilson will always be remembered by the numerous children who attended the many years of "Bring Your Child to Work Day" for his artistic desk collection of unusual and educational found street objects from his daily bike commutes to the office;

Whereas Thomas Wilson's postcard missives with his photos of skiing midwinter under a sunny sky in Wyoming's vast range while his former coworkers slogged about in Washington's rain will be sorely missed;

Whereas Thomas Wilson embodies dedication and enthusiasm, exhibiting those qualities most recently in retirement with respect to landscape painting;

Whereas Thomas Wilson will be greatly missed; *now therefore be it*

Resolved that the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 130th Annual Meeting and Education Conference in Orlando, Florida, extends its deepest thanks, sincere appreciation, and gratitude to Thomas Wilson for his many years of public service to the States of Washington and Wyoming, and to NARUC.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors, November 13, 2018