

Honorary Resolution for Labros E. Pilalis (PA)

Whereas Labros Evaggelos Pilalis commands many designations—regulatory law economist, lawyer, military weapons expert, knowledgeable geopolitical observer, hand-picked tutor and mentor to foreign military officers studying in the United States at the invitation of the U.S. Army, scholar and published author in defense, economics, and public utility regulation journals, dedicated advisor to the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commission’s (NARUC) Committee on Telecommunications and the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service, invaluable and trusted telecommunications advisor to Pennsylvania Public Utility Commissioners, faith-filled counsel to his Church and its community, and loyal friend;

Whereas throughout his adult life Labros has benefitted from the assistance and insight provided by his wife, Dr. Jessica R. Suchy-Pilalis, Professor, Music Theory, Harp at the Crane School of Music, SUNY/Potsdam, particularly when inspecting military museums and equipment, even during a visit to Israel for a musical performance;

Whereas having earned his Bachelor of Arts in Physics from the University of Nebraska and his Master of Public Affairs and Doctor of Jurisprudence from Indiana University, Labros began his career in 1982 in the Economics and Finance Division of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), led by the late Wayne Lash, where he quickly rose from the position of Utility Analyst to the IURC’s Assistant Chief Economist who, in addition to his regular duties, prepared reports to the Indiana General Assembly on telecommunications regulation and oversaw an investigation of potential excess earnings by a major local exchange carrier;

Whereas after IURC senior telecommunications policy analyst Karl Henry’s initial encounter with Labros in 1988 as his first supervisor at the IURC, he benefitted immeasurably from Labros’s example through his skills in legal and public policy analysis based partly on their common interests in law, history, and public policy, which resulted in a friendship and a professional relationship that continues today;

Whereas Labros became a member of the bar of the Indiana Supreme Court on October 20, 1989, and remains so;

Whereas, in November, 1993, Labros was chosen by Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Chairman David Rolka to bring his knowledge, work ethic, and experience to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) as a technical staff supervisor in the PUC’s Office of Special Assistants headed by Cheryl Walker Davis;

Whereas with high intelligence and integrity, Labros continued his established practice of focusing on facts, finance, and policy at the PUC as he had done at the IURC and expanded that practice to instruct and educate his staff on how to engage in similar practices;

Whereas Joe Witmer and his telecommunications colleagues at the PUC first came to know, and sometimes dread but were always prepared for, long and detailed meetings with Labros on all things telecommunications and broadband, starting with Extended Area Service (EAS), Staff Responses on Telecommunications Regulation to the Commissioners, Section 706 petitions, and ending with Net Neutrality, Separations, Universal Service, and the *Transformation Order*;

Whereas in April 1998, Labros joined former PUC Commissioner and Attorney James H. Cawley in the practice of telecommunications law and public utility and telecommunications consulting

with the law firm's subsidiary, the Rhoads & Sinon Group LLC., including 2004 cost of capital testimony on behalf of the Staff of the South Carolina PSC in a case involving the application of South Carolina Electric & Gas for adjustments to its electric schedules and tariffs;

Whereas in June 2005, when Commissioner (later Chairman) Cawley rejoined the PUC, he recruited Labros to be his chief telecommunications advisor to the (mock) chagrin and dread (but actual delight) of his former PUC staff colleagues—feelings not shared, however, by the less forthright telecommunications entities who knew well of Labros' oft-demonstrated proclivity to always seek the public interest;

Whereas during his tenure with Chairman Cawley, Labros distinguished himself by reviewing all PUC staff recommendations for FCC filings, fearlessly editing anything and everything that needed correction or elaboration, and relished his appointment to the staff of the Federal-State Joint Board for Universal Service, where he proceeded to edit any amorphous written drafts to make them more precise and comprehensive;

Whereas Labros marshalled the forces in opposition to the FCC's 2011 *Transformation Order* based on its bald and unprecedented assertion of federal authority over intrastate telecommunications, although his efforts (and those of other state utility commissions and many regulated entities) came to naught when the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit completely upheld the FCC's decision by reliance on prudential sidesteps of legal objections and a torrent of unjustified judicial deference to the agency's discretion;

Whereas upon the departure from the PUC of Chairman Cawley in 2015, Labros was invited by Commissioner Andrew Place to be his telecommunications expert, to the welcoming surprise, if not sometimes exasperation, of Lois Burns, Commissioner Place's Chief of Staff;

Whereas upon the departure of Commissioner Place, Labros carried his public interest focus and reputation to the public interest-centered RolkaLoube, LLC, Harrisburg, PA, including administration and oversight of the federal Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Fund;

Whereas since 2002, Labros has provided countless volunteer hours of research and writing assistance to the Community Sponsors Program, U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, PA, shepherding Greek and Middle Eastern military officers through the vigorous curriculum at the college;

Whereas Labros has dedicated numerous hours of service to his church, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Camp Hill, PA, as a volunteer teacher and as a Parish Council Member and Secretary, while helping the Greek community by answering inquiries and providing translation services to resolve matters here and in Greece; *and*

Whereas anyone who has ever worked with Labros has no doubt that he continues his focus on the public interest, facts, details, and exhaustive footnotes educating current and future regulators about the comprehensive history of anything he has worked on (just in case they need it); *now therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2022 Winter Policy Summit in Washington, DC, recognizes, commends, and thanks Labros Pilalis for his fearless, exhaustive, and principled efforts to protect

the public interest in his long career, particularly his spirited defense of state interests in all things telecommunications, and extends its respect and best wishes to him and his wife Jessica.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on February , 2022