

EL-1/ERE-2/GS-1 Resolution on Expanding the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Market

WHEREAS, On July 20, 2011, the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) adopted a resolution on Alternative Fuel Vehicle Development and Deployment recognizing that alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) can enhance national energy security and reduce emissions, and that continued leadership by State and federal policy makers is needed to ensure the goals of that resolution are fulfilled in today's rapidly evolving AFV market; and

WHEREAS, Utility companies and third-party providers are considering various business models for entering the AFV service market, including providing charging and fueling infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Third-party equipment manufacturers are forging ahead with new technologies to make charging and fueling safe, easy, convenient, and affordable for customers; and

WHEREAS, There is a growing convergence of energy and transportation policy at the State level, with many State legislatures and governors considering and adopting policies that impact the role and responsibilities of utilities in the AFV market; and

WHEREAS, Utility companies are preparing for the AFV market by deploying advanced metering technologies and control systems, designing innovative rates and incentives, and assessing transmission and distribution systems, to minimize any potential risk to reliability and to maximize consumer savings; and

WHEREAS, As AFV penetration increases, a coordinated system to provide utility companies timely notification of AFV purchases and the location of planned public and private charging and fueling infrastructure would facilitate strategic system-wide planning, targeted customer education and outreach and further accelerate the development of the AFV market; and

WHEREAS, The continued commitment of utility companies to environmental improvements in the production and delivery of alternative fuels, programs and policies will help realize the full economic, environmental, and societal benefits of AFVs; and

WHEREAS, Local and State governments and State commissions are uniquely positioned to further the development of the AFV market by collaborating with utility companies and other stakeholders on educating consumers on the availability, environmental benefits, and cost-effectiveness of AFVs, as well as the proper installation and efficient use of charging and fueling infrastructure; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners convened at its 2012 Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, and urges State and federal regulators to collaborate with other policymakers to remove barriers to AFV deployment, and ensure consistent, fuel-neutral policies to help realize the full economic, environmental and societal benefits of AFVs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That NARUC supports utility company programs and policies that allow for the continued development of the AFV market, including addressing any potential upgrades to grid

and pipeline infrastructure that may be needed to maintain the integrity of the utility system and design of innovative rate programs or incentives to maximize customer savings; and be it further

RESOLVED, That NARUC believes third-party providers of fueling and charging services that purchase power or fuel from a regulated public utility or other competitive energy supplier to provide to the public should not be considered public utilities and therefore not regulated as such; and be it further

RESOLVED, That NARUC encourages utility companies to collaborate with federal, State and local policymakers to address potential consumer protection concerns, safety issues and reliability impacts that could arise from fueling and charging services provided by third-parties; and be it further

RESOLVED, That NARUC supports a competitive AFV marketplace, where utility companies, businesses, governments, and third-party service providers are able to participate in the owning, leasing, operating, or maintenance of charging or fueling equipment; and be it further

RESOLVED, That NARUC encourages utility companies to work with local governments, State agencies, automakers, and other stakeholders to secure timely notification of AFV purchases and proposed charging or fueling infrastructure installations to facilitate strategic system-wide planning and targeted customer outreach; and be it further

RESOLVED, That NARUC supports customer education and outreach on the benefits of AFVs, including their availability, environmental benefits, and cost effectiveness, and the proper installation and efficient use of charging or fueling infrastructure, as well as the availability of programs and tariffs that maximize savings from AFV use and protect the integrity of the utility system; and be it further

RESOLVED, That NARUC encourages State legislatures and governors to consider consistent, fuel-neutral transportation funding solutions and policies that support the growth, adoption and increased environmental performance of AFVs.

Sponsored by the Committees on Electricity, the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment and Committee on Gas

*Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors, November 13, 2012
Adopted by the NARUC Committee of the Whole, November 14, 2012*