

## Resolution Opposing FCC Caller ID Order

**WHEREAS**, In CC Docket No. 91-281, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) prescribed rules for interstate Caller ID service which require per call blocking but prohibit per line blocking on interstate calls; and

**WHEREAS**, The FCC's order preempts State requirements that require a blocking alternative for interstate calls different from the one adopted by the FCC, such as per line blocking; and

**WHEREAS**, Although the order does not expressly preempt per line blocking for intrastate Caller ID service, establishing a separate intrastate per line blocking mechanism may not be practical due to cost and technical considerations and is likely to result in customer confusion; and

**WHEREAS**, Under current circumstances, Caller ID services are intrastate services and have been authorized in every State except Alaska and Hawaii; and

**WHEREAS**, Prior to their authorization of Caller-ID service, most States conducted extensive customer outreach and education programs to determine how best to balance the privacy interests of the calling and called parties; and

**WHEREAS**, Many witnesses, including psychiatrists, social workers, police, other public safety officials, as well as family violence crisis centers, saw danger and/or nuisance, and a significant loss of privacy in allowing Caller-ID service to be offered without the option of per line blocking; and

**WHEREAS**, As a result of public input, 41 States have authorized some form of per line blocking, with 29 of those States making it available to all subscribers, while customers in 39 States have the option to select either per call or per line blocking; and

**WHEREAS**, The available evidence does not suggest that the availability of various blocking options has had any detrimental impact on subscription levels to Caller ID service; and

**WHEREAS**, Several States and the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners (NARUC) are seeking reconsideration of the FCC decision and California has challenged the FCC order in court; and

**WHEREAS**, On June 2, 1994, members of the NARUC Communications Committee wrote to Chairman Hundt urging the FCC to reconsider its decision and to provide interstate callers with the same level of privacy protection they currently have for intrastate calls; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the NARUC Executive Committee, convened at

its 1994 Summer Meetings in San Diego, California, recommends that the FCC grant the petitions for reconsideration filed by many States, NARUC and others requesting that the FCC forbear from establishing a Federal blocking regime which preempts intrastate blocking policies, causes customer confusion, and limits the range of privacy protections available to telephone callers in connection with Caller-ID services; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the NARUC General Counsel take whatever action is necessary, in the appropriate forum, to carry out the objective of this resolution.

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Sponsored by the Committee on Communications  
Adopted July 27, 1994  
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