

***Resolution Supporting Public Interest Research and Development Conference***

**WHEREAS**, Public interest research and development contribute to the well-being of American society and utility-sponsored research has been proven to be of significant benefit to citizens and ratepayers; *and*

**WHEREAS**, State commissions and legislatures, the Congress and the FERC are developing and implementing policies to increase the reliance on competition in energy supply and services markets; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Public-interest research and development may be at risk in restructured, more competitive energy industries; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The NARUC has historically encouraged electric utilities and natural gas companies to fund collaborative R&D by EPRI and GRI to develop new technologies for electric and gas industry T&D functions, end-use efficiency, renewables and environmental purposes; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The NARUC, at its November 1994 meeting, adopted a resolution on competition and stranded benefits calling for new proposals to preserve environmental and diversity benefits in a more competitive marketplace; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The NARUC, at its July 1996 meeting, adopted "Principles to Guide the Restructuring of the Electric Industry," one of which is to maintain public benefits such as research and development through existing or new mechanisms; *and*

**WHEREAS**, It is timely to examine the role of various entities in the performance of public interest research and development; *now, therefore, be it*

**RESOLVED**, By the Executive Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its 1997 Winter Meetings, that it is timely to convene interested parties such as NARUC, NRRI, EPRI, GRI, DOE, NREL, electric and gas industry representatives, and others to discuss public interest research and development; *and be it further*

**RESOLVED**, That the conference should address such issues as: the role of the public interest in R&D in a more competitive energy industry; the appropriate federal and state roles; funding mechanisms; and different approaches to consider; *and be it further*

**RESOLVED**, That the NARUC may provide logistical support for the conference and chair the conference.

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*Sponsored by the Committees on Energy Resources, Electricity, Finance and Technology, and Gas*

*Adopted February 26, 1997*