

Resolution Honoring Former FCC Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate

WHEREAS, Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate, nominated by President Bush on November 9, 2005, to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), has completed her term, much to the chagrin of her State commission colleagues who enjoyed having one of their own on “the 8th floor;” *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Tate was appointed by the FCC on January 13, 2006, to both serve on and act as Federal Chair of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, as well as Federal Chair of the Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations, later also being appointed Federal Chair of the Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Services (the “706” Joint conference”); *and*

WHEREAS, During her tenure as Commissioner, she crafted recommendations to launch a comprehensive reform of the nation’s Universal Service Fund management, administration, and oversight; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Tate was also a strong voice for children and families, tirelessly advocating the need to combat childhood obesity, to promote online safety, and to increase family-friendly programming; *and*

WHEREAS, She also represented the interests of Main Street, small businesses, and rural America and was dedicated to speaking out “for our songwriters, storytellers, and inventors;” *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Tate was a tireless and passionate advocate of accelerated broadband and other related advanced services build-out, committed to showcasing its empowering aspects and to showcasing success stories both in her State and later in her Federal role; *and*

WHEREAS, As the only sitting FCC Commissioner with practical experience at the State commission level, Commissioner Tate provided great insight and experience into the FCC’s decision-making process, all the while using her sincere Southern charm and grace to make people feel welcome and heard when making their cases to her; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Tate never forgot her roots, never forgot her experience as a State Commissioner, never forgot the critical role that States play in the formulation of communications policy, and never forgot that without the State Commissions the consumers of telecommunication services would lose an important forum for resolving grievances; *and*

WHEREAS, Before her role as FCC Commissioner exemplar, Commissioner Tate served tenaciously as a Director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority for three and one-half years, serving as its Chair from 2003 until 2004; *and*

WHEREAS, During her tenure with the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, she initiated a State-wide symposium on winter heating issues, was instrumental in the development of the Do-Not-Fax program, and implemented innovative community outreach and education efforts; *and*

WHEREAS, During her farewell to the FCC, Commissioner Tate described the Commission's accomplishments as including "implementing successful spectrum auctions, creating a new homeland security bureau, providing broadband grants for rural healthcare, and overseeing the digital transition for television;" *and*

WHEREAS, As a dedicated member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), Commissioner Tate served on both the Consumer Affairs and Gas committees, and was Chairman of the Washington Action Committee, giving strong voice to the State perspective in Washington with both style and tenacity; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its 2009 Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, D.C., honors and offers its sincere thanks to our good friend and valued colleague for her broad vision, leadership, dedication, public service, civility, and commitment to excellence, *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC wishes Deborah Taylor Tate continued success and happiness as she launches her mediation practice and other scholarly endeavors, thus continuing to use her unique knack for developing resolution, collaborating with stakeholders, and building consensus.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors February 18, 2009