

Resolution on Reform of FCC Management and Process

WHEREAS, The advent of a new Administration under President Obama and the upcoming appointment of new FCC Commissioners have created the atmosphere for much-needed reform at the Commission; *and*

WHEREAS, On December 12, 2008, NARUC's President Frederick Butler sent a letter to then President-elect Obama's transition team outlining in detail specific reform proposals for FCC process and procedure, which the Telecommunications Committee supports; *and*

WHEREAS, On January 26, 2009, Acting Chairman Michael J. Copps announced to the staff of the Commission initial reforms in three broad areas signaling a more inclusive management style, including increasing cooperation among the Bureaus and enhancing communication among the five Commissioners' offices; *and*

WHEREAS, NARUC believes that such management reforms of the Commission present an opportunity to improve not only the internal decision-making processes and the quality and sustainability of the orders of the Commission, but also the collaboration and communication with NARUC and its member commissions; *and*

WHEREAS, NARUC has previously, through resolution, expressed its concern relative to the excessive use of forbearance petitions; *and*

WHEREAS, Several members of the current Joint Boards have expressed concern with the process for referrals, deliberation, decision-making and budget constraints affecting these Joint Board matters, and believe that improvements should be made; *and*

WHEREAS, Recent proposed rulemakings and orders have demonstrated that the Commission needs enhanced capabilities in certain functions such as finance and engineering; *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., recognizes and applauds the initial reforms that Acting Chairman Michael J. Copps has announced; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC encourages the Commission to make greater use of fact-based inquiries or adjudications and to adopt a timetable in which the Commission takes final action on matters; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the Joint Board process for referrals, deliberation, and decision-making and the budget constraints affecting these matters be reviewed on an expedited basis; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC encourages the Commission to consider enhancing its capabilities and analysis in finance and engineering; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC supports continued efforts by the Commission to foster cooperation with State commissions in traditional areas of joint authority and jurisdiction such as interconnection responsibilities and obligations, consumer protection, E911 and public safety, and universal service.

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