

Resolution Supporting Broadband Data Collection and Mapping

WHEREAS, The Broadband Data Improvement Act, S.1492, has been passed into law and its purpose is to improve the quality of data collected at State and Federal levels regarding the availability and robustness of broadband services and to promote the deployment of affordable broadband services to all parts of the Nation; *and*

WHEREAS, The Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its February 2007 Winter Meetings in Washington, D.C., passed a resolution recognizing the critical role the States have in gathering the necessary broadband data to determine unserved and underserved areas within their borders; *and*

WHEREAS, NARUC believes that robust, advanced broadband systems offering affordable broadband service are critical to this Nation's competitiveness in a global market, and to achieve certain socioeconomic improvements in the quality of American life; *and*

WHEREAS, Some experts estimate that universal broadband adoption would add \$500 billion to the Nation's economy and create 1.2 million new jobs; *and*

WHEREAS, States have strong incentives to increase deployment and adoption rates for broadband use within their borders given the strong economic benefits resulting from increased broadband adoption; *and*

WHEREAS, Federal and State policies and incentives to increase broadband deployment and adoption are hampered by the lack of comprehensive data regarding the availability, penetration and speeds of broadband in the United States, and such data is critical to designing effective and targeted programs or policies to expeditiously increase deployment and adoption rates; *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 the critical role the States have in gathering the necessary broadband data to determine unserved and underserved areas within their borders; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That States should promptly implement the Broadband Data Improvement Act, S.1492, to identify geographic areas that are unserved or underserved (defined as areas with slow broadband speeds as determined by each State) by broadband; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That States should explore various options including public-private partnerships to implement broadband data collection and mapping encompassing all technologies; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That NARUC authorizes and directs its General Counsel to promote, with the Federal Communications Commission, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Congress, and policymakers at the federal level, policies consistent with this Resolution.

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