

## Resolution on Universal Service Principles

**WHEREAS,** In July of 1993, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) Committee on Communications convened a working group known as the Universal Service Project (USP or Project) to examine the issues associated with universal telephone service; and

**WHEREAS,** The goal of the USP is to explore the evolution of universal service through a collaborative process;

**WHEREAS,** The objective of the USP is to propose a body of principles that may assist NARUC and its member States in evaluating the current status and future development of the telecommunications network and telecommunications regulatory policies and to determine whether or not and to what degree regulatory involvement is necessary; and

**WHEREAS,** The USP solicited and received valuable input and commentary from all interested parties during each work phase of the Project, and

**WHEREAS,** The USP has formulated and described a set of principles to be applied in the present and future policy making with respect to universal service that is set forth in a White Paper entitled "Position Statement on Universal Service Principles" dated July 19, 1994; and

**WHEREAS,** In developing the Position Statement on Universal Service Principles, the USP engaged in an iterative process of publishing two drafts of the White Papers, one in February 1994 and the second in June of 1994, for public comment; and

**WHEREAS,** The USP appreciates the efforts of the interested parties in providing helpful and thoughtful comments and ideas; and

**WHEREAS,** Comments were submitted by the following groups which reflect a diversity of interests, opinions and views: American Public Communications Council; AT&T; BellSouth Telecommunications; Grand River Mutual Telephone; GTE; MCI Communications Corporation; National Exchange Carrier Association; National Rural Telecom Association; National Telephone Cooperative Association; Organization for the Protection and Advancement of Small Telephone Companies; Pacific Bell, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company; TDS Telecommunications Corp., U S WEST Communications; and United States Telephone Association; and

**WHEREAS,** The body of principles developed by the USP is intended to provide suggested guidelines to aid the States in their analysis of universal telephone service; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the NARUC Executive Committee, convened at its 1994 Summer Meetings in San Diego, California, recommends the following principles be considered by the States when they engage

in policy making with respect to universal service issues:

1. Universal service must be maintained where it exists today and extended to those households where it does not exist.
2. Assuring that every household can afford essential telecommunications service must remain a fundamental precept in considering any expansion of the universal service concept.
3. Policy makers should periodically evaluate and adapt the definition of essential and universally available telecommunications services to assure that all subscribers will benefit from advanced telecommunications applications.
4. Services that fall within the universal service definition must be offered on a common carrier basis.
5. In expanding the universal service concept, customer demand should be the principal determinant of appropriate technical standards or minimum service capabilities, consistent with the public convenience and necessity.
6. Costs of current and future definitions of universal service must be carefully evaluated by regulators and support must be provided on a neutral, non-discriminatory basis; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the NARUC General Counsel shall be authorized to file appropriate pleadings and other documents before the FCC and other venues consistent with these universal telephone service principles; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That in analyzing and developing views on proposed Federal telecommunications legislation that may impact on universal telephone service, NARUC should be guided by these principles.

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Sponsored by the Committee on Communications  
Adopted July 27, 1994  
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