

Resolution Honoring Wisconsin's Universal Service Fund Director, Jeffrey J. Richter

Whereas Jeffrey J. Richter was born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science (1977) and a Master of Science degree in Water Resources Management (1980) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison;

Whereas Jeffrey J. Richter began his 35-years of public service at the Wisconsin Public Service Commission as a Public Utility Rate Analyst in 1983; served from 1989 to 2012 as the Principal Telecommunications Analyst; and from 2012 to 2019 served as the Universal Service Fund Director;

Whereas Jeffrey J. Richter worked diligently through the deregulation of Customer Premises Equipment, followed by Customer Service Wiring and used his experience and background with Wisconsin's Citizens Utility Board, to work for customer protections to ease market transitions, including developing a process to make a smooth and timely transition from multi-party lines to one-party service in Wisconsin;

Whereas Jeffrey J. Richter created a funding mechanism for 911 in Wisconsin, and served as its acting director;

Whereas Jeffrey J. Richter served on the staff committee for the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC") Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations, and maintains active service on the Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Telecommunications Services;

Whereas Jeffrey J. Richter advocated for access to telecommunications equipment for people with speech, hearing, and vision disabilities;

Whereas Jeffrey J. Richter was a primary developer of the forerunner of Lifeline in Wisconsin, and was instrumental in creation and evolution of Lifeline on the federal level;

Whereas Jeffrey J. Richter demonstrated vision and innovation in his efforts to verify customer eligibility for Lifeline as key to avoiding waste and fraud, and worked tirelessly to develop interagency partnerships to create the nationally-recognized CALER interface providing a real-time method of verifying Lifeline eligibility;

Whereas Jeffrey J. Richter represented Wisconsin's needs and requirements on the federal level with regard to USA's National Lifeline Verifier, in order to maintain the partnerships behind, and role of, the States' sophisticated, reliable and efficient CALER interface;

Whereas Jeffrey J. Richter, from 1995 to 2019, authored and collaborated on the drafting, revision, and updates of Wisconsin Administrative Rules specific to the Universal Service Fund, Lifeline, the Telecommunications Equipment Purchase Program, Link-Up, and Medical Tele-Equipment Grants;

Whereas Jeffrey J. Richter has demonstrated leadership through his transparent, objective, and timely actions to support and staff the Wisconsin Universal Service Fund Council, consisting of representatives from telecommunications companies, and organizations working with consumers such as health, social service, and nonprofit organizations;

Whereas Jeffrey J. Richter's prolific contributions to policy in the State of Wisconsin mirrored his reputation and activity at the national level;

Whereas Jeffrey J. Richter garnered a well-deserved reputation as a national expert and innovator, serving in practically every capacity as a very active member of the NARUC Staff Subcommittee on Communications, e.g., co-chairing NARUC’s 1997 Internet Working Group which produced a seminal report on pricing and universal service for internet traffic on the PSTN, as a member of the NARUC Lifeline Task Force, as staff to the Federal State Joint Board on Separations;

Whereas there is literally no one in NARUC who knows Jeff well that does not also like and respect him – his gregariousness, sense of humor, and technical experience have made him an invaluable friend and confidante of NARUC Commissioners and staff, consumer advocates, and professional colleagues working at the FCC, and in sector companies and trade associations;

Whereas Jeffrey Richter has been known to ride his bike along the Wisconsin roads and trails in rainy weather, with his shoes filled with water, for no other reason than to fulfill the commitment he has made to himself to live his life on his own terms;

Whereas Jeffrey J. Richter’s civic involvement speaks to his sincere commitment to contributing value for the betterment of the world around him as the current President of the Wisconsin Professional Employees Council state employee union (AFT Local 4848) and Treasurer of the American Federation of Teachers—Wisconsin, and as president of the Capitol View Neighborhood Association; *now, therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”), convened at its 2019 Winter Policy Summit in Washington, D.C., expresses its appreciation to Jeffrey J. Richter for his invaluable expertise, dedication, and vision to the citizens of Wisconsin, members of NARUC, and America’s utility service consumers.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications
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