Substantive Resolutions

Submitted for Consideration by the NARUC Standing Committees

at the

July 27 – 30, 2025

NARUC Summer Policy Summit

in Boston, Massachusetts

Note – these resolutions do not become NARUC policy unless and until they are passed by the NARUC Board of Directors. Also, one or more may change substantially during consideration.

EL-1 Resolution Affirming Nuclear Energy's Indispensable Role in Powering a Clean, Reliable, and Resilient Future

Whereas nuclear power stands as a cornerstone of our nation's energy infrastructure, capable of delivering the highest capacity factor baseload energy, dispatchable, and emissions-free energy through continuous, round-the-clock operations 365 days a year, and providing a steadfast backbone for a sustainable energy future;

Whereas the United States proudly operates 94 nuclear reactors across 28 states, generating approximately 18 percent of the nation's electricity, making nuclear power an indispensable pillar of diverse state energy portfolios, ensuring stability and reliability in an era of growing energy demands;

Whereas a surge of forward-thinking state actions, including the lifting of statutory prohibitions or moratoriums on new nuclear facilities, reflects a dynamic and growing momentum for advanced nuclear technologies, unlocking pathways to achieve reliable clean energy goals and accelerating transformative economic development;

Whereas according to recent surveys, public confidence in nuclear energy has risen to a historic 60 percent, signaling robust and widespread support for its role in a clean energy transition;

Whereas nuclear energy fortifies national energy security, enhances transmission and grid reliability, promotes affordability with proven economy that electric grids integrating nuclear power may reduce costs to ratepayers;[1]

Whereas with many reactors poised to secure uprates and approvals for extended operations for up to 80 years, the existing nuclear fleet is projected to grow by more than 3 gigawatts of clean, reliable capacity over the next decade, underscoring the enduring and critical value of these assets to national energy objectives;

Whereas rising electricity demand, driven by transformative industrial growth in sectors such as data centers, low-carbon steel production, and petroleum industries, demands robust, baseload, and dispatchable energy sources, with nuclear power uniquely positioned to meet these needs;

Whereas legacy nuclear units, and innovative new deployments, are essential to meeting surging system demand with clean, reliable, and resilient energy, thereby ensuring a stable power supply for a rapidly evolving economy;

Whereas cutting-edge advanced nuclear technologies, including small modular reactors (SMRs) and microreactors, offer groundbreaking enhancements in safety, flexible siting options, and seamless integration with other energy resources, paving the way for a versatile and sustainable energy ecosystem;

Whereas advanced nuclear projects serve as powerful economic engines, driving substantial job creation, fostering technical innovation, and supporting resilient, sustainable energy infrastructure, with projects creating thousands of high-skilled jobs and stimulating local economies;

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[1] Vibrant Clean Energy, LLC, *Role of Electricity Produced by Advanced Nuclear Technologies in Decarbonizing the U.S. Energy System*, June 17, 2022, https://www.vibrantcleanenergy.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/VCE-NEI-17June2022.pdf.

Whereas maintaining U.S. global leadership in nuclear technology is paramount to safeguarding national security, ensuring economic stability, and amplifying international influence in energy innovation, positioning America as a trailblazer in the global clean energy race;

Whereas the advancement of nuclear technologies demands a highly skilled workforce, necessitating robust investment in education and training programs to cultivate expertise and ensure U.S. competitiveness in this critical sector;

Whereas state public utility commissions often wield pivotal authority in overseeing the evaluation of nuclear power plant projects, ensuring their cost-effectiveness, reliability, and alignment with public interest through rigorous integrated resource planning analyses, fostering trust and accountability; and

Whereas addressing public concerns about nuclear energy safety, spent fuel management, and economic viability requires resolute commitment to transparent communication, robust regulatory frameworks, and proactive public engagement to build trust and understanding; *now, therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2025 Summer Policy Summit in Boston, Massachusetts, affirms the indispensable role of nuclear energy in the deployment of electricity—encompassing both the existing fleet and transformative advanced technologies—in meeting current and future electricity demands, ensuring transmission and grid reliability, and achieving ambitious state and national clean energy goals, thereby securing a sustainable and prosperous energy future; *and be it further*

Resolved, that NARUC

(i) stands firmly in support of state and federal initiatives to preserve and extend the operational life of the existing nuclear fleet, accelerate the deployment of advanced nuclear technologies, and establish clear, streamlined regulatory frameworks to foster innovation and expedite project development;

(ii) champions proactive policies to mitigate the inherent risks of first-of-a-kind advanced nuclear projects, including targeted financial incentives, risk-sharing mechanisms, and streamlined permitting processes to catalyze deployment, protect ratepayers, and ensure economic viability;

(iii) calls for robust collaboration among all interested parties, including but not limited to, states, federal agencies, utilities, and industry stakeholders to ensure nuclear energy remains a cornerstone of a safe, cost-effective, and resilient electric transmission system and grid, harnessing its full potential to promote a clean energy system;

(iv) advocates for sustained investment in workforce development programs to build a dynamic, skilled labor force capable of supporting the nuclear energy sector's growth, equipping the next generation with the expertise needed to lead in energy innovation;

(v) commits to fostering public engagement and education initiatives to enhance knowledge, trust, and awareness of nuclear energy's benefits, rigorous safety measures; and critical role in combating climate change, promoting national security, and ensuring informed public support for this vital resource.

Passed the Subcommittee on Nuclear Energy on July 27, 2025, and the Committee on Electricity on July 28, 2025.
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on July 30, 2025.

EL-2 Resolution Regarding the Urgent Need for a National Nuclear Waste Repository

Whereas the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) sent a March 18, 2025, letter to U.S. Senate and House leaders and the Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE) that provided the following observations:

- "Finding: The nation needs one or more deep geologic repositories for permanent disposal of domestic spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste."
- "Conclusion 1: The Department of Energy does not have an effective program, as of December 2024, that could lead to a deep geologic repository."
- "Conclusion 2: The lack of an effective repository program brings a high risk that ongoing efforts to site one or more federal interim storage facilities will ultimately be unsuccessful."
- "Recommendation: The Board recommends that the Department of Energy take the steps necessary, working with Congress as needed, to create a workable pathway to site, license, construct, and operate a geologic repository for the permanent disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste";

Whereas the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended, established the DOE Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) to carry out certain functions, to include, siting a second repository for the permanent deep geologic disposal of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel;

Whereas the February 14, 2018, NARUC Resolution Regarding Guiding Principles for Management and Disposal of High-Level Radioactive Waste resolved that "America Needs a Permanent Solution to Nuclear Waste Disposal" and that "NARUC supports the policy established by Congress in 1982 that the best, long-term solution to isolating nuclear waste from the environment is permanent disposal in a geologic repository"; *and*

Whereas the 2018 NARUC Resolution also resolved that "The management of federal responsibilities for used fuel management would be more successful if assigned to a new organization . . . with better access to financing" and that "Since the former waste management organization [OCRWM] was disbanded in 2010, a new organization is needed (or the old one must be reconstituted) even if responsibility is retained by DOE"; *now, therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2025 Summer Policy Summit in Boston, Massachusetts, reaffirms its call for Congress to establish a new national spent nuclear fuel management organization outside of the DOE. Until that happens, NARUC urges the DOE to reconstitute a separate office, like the disbanded OCRWM. Under either scenario, NARUC calls for the establishment or reestablishment of a program to site, license, construct, and operate a second geologic repository for the permanent disposal of the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste from commercial, defense, and research activities and to provide that program with sustainable annual funding from the Nuclear Waste Fund into which the nations' electric ratepayers have contributed.

Passed the Subcommittee on Nuclear Energy on July 27, 2025, and the Committee on Electricity on July 28, 2025.
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on July 30, 2025.

ERE-1 Resolution in Support of the Reauthorization and Adequate Funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program

Whereas U.S. Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) has served more than 7 million income eligible households by increasing the energy efficiency of homes, while ensuring health and safety. Weatherization investments include improved heating, ventilation and air conditioning; insulation and air sealing, lighting and appliances;

Whereas weatherization programs support 8,500 jobs, creating more energy efficient dwellings in communities across the country, increasing local employment, reducing energy costs and generating positive energy and non-energy benefits;

Whereas federal funding for weatherization is a cornerstone for supporting funding from other sources. WAP funds are often paired with state or utility efficiency programs increasing the impacts and benefits families and businesses;

Whereas U.S. Department of Energy found in 2022 through weatherization improvements and upgrades, families save an average of $372 per year on their energy bills allowing them a better opportunity to pay future energy bills while improving the health, comfort and safety of their home;

Whereas ***a***ccording to Oak Ridge National Lab, low-income households carry a larger burden for energy costs typically spending 13.9% of total annual income versus 3% for other households. Low-income families often reduce spending on health care, medicine, groceries or childcare to pay energy bills;

Whereas after weatherization investments, families have homes that are more livable, resulting in fewer missed days of work and school and decreased medical expenses;

Whereas Federal Fiscal Year 2020 funding for Weatherization Assistance Program was more than $302 million and Federal Fiscal Year 2019 funding was nearly $277 million;

Whereas in 2019, utilities and states supplemented DOE funding by providing an additional $844 million or $3.04 for every dollar invested by the U.S. Department of Energy;

Whereas the WAP Weatherization Readiness Fund allows state programs to address barriers to weatherization, such as structural deficiencies, outdated wiring, or health risks like mold and asbestos, allowing more homes to qualify for WAP;

Whereas adequate appropriations for the Weatherization Readiness Fund help ensure that eligible homeowners can access WAP funds to make their households safer, healthier, and more energy efficient;

Whereas the Program is set to expire and must be reauthorized in Fiscal Year 2026 to ensure its continuous support for essential services;

Whereas the Administration has proposed elimination of the federal Weatherization Assistance Program, including the Weatherization Readiness Fund, for Fiscal Year 2026;

Whereas ***s***tatutory authorization for the Weatherization Assistance Program expires at the end of this fiscal year (September 30, 2025);

Whereas a failure to reauthorize the Weatherization Assistance Program would cause key requirements for DOE's administration of the program to lapse; *and*

Whereas if the Administration's cuts are enacted, every state will experience a reduction in funding and jobs, and nationwide almost 69,000 families will be denied weatherization services; *now, therefore, be it,*

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its July 2025 Summer Meetings in Boston, Massachusetts, urges Congress to fund the Weatherization Assistance Program at no less than $326 million for Federal Fiscal Year 2026, provide adequate funding for the Weatherization Readiness Fund, and reauthorize WAP through 2030 to ensure seamless continued operation of the program.

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Passed by the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment on July 29, 2025.
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on July 30, 2025.

GS-2 Resolution on Natural Gas Energy Efficiency Programs for Commercial and Industrial Customers

Whereas commercial and industrial (C&I) enterprises are foundational to state and local economies, providing millions of jobs and requiring affordable, reliable, and efficient energy to remain globally competitive;

Whereas the natural gas delivery system moves energy to end-users with approximately 92 percent source-to-site efficiency, minimizing upstream losses and maximizing useful energy for C&I facilities;

Whereas data from the United States Energy Information Administration shows that demand for natural gas in the C&I sectors continues to expand—C&I customers consumed nearly 14 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas in 2023 (about 10.5 Tcf industrial and 3.3 Tcf commercial, more than 40 percent of total U.S. gas use), and natural gas utilities are adding around 80 new business customers every day—reinforcing the importance of maximizing energy-efficiency opportunities for these customers;

Whereas a Natural Gas Efficiency Programs Report from the American Gas Association for the 2021-2022 Program Year shows that gas utilities that participated in the study collectively invested roughly $1.51 billion in energy efficiency programs in 2022, and budgeted $1.8 billion for 2023, demonstrating a strong industry commitment to natural gas energy efficiency programs;

Whereas the same Natural Gas Efficiency Programs Report shows that gas utilities reported over 40,000 C&I accounts enrolled in energy efficiency programs in 2022, and collectively spent more than $231 million on C&I accounts in the U.S., which accounted for 21 percent of total spending on energy efficiency programs. Gas utilities reported saving more than 79 therms of energy through energy efficiency programs for C&I accounts for the 2022 program year, which equated to 42 percent of gross energy savings of all customer segments;

Whereas these efforts, combined with system modernization, have contributed to a 70 percent reduction in methane emissions from the gas distribution system since 1990, aligning C&I customers' sustainability goals with broader state and federal objectives, according to the same Natural Gas Efficiency Programs Report;

Whereas non-energy benefits ("NEBs"), which may include avoided emissions and compliance costs, water or other-fuel savings, lower utility and customer operations and maintenance outlays, improved health-and-safety and comfort, job creation and broader economic development, and heightened system resilience, can boost the cost-effectiveness and total value of natural-gas efficiency programs for C&I customers; *and*

Whereas distributed natural-gas efficiency solutions, which may include combined heat and power (CHP), on-site micro-generation, advanced industrial boilers, process-heat recovery, gas heat pumps, and networked geothermal loops, have potential for broader use in industrial and large-commercial facilities; these efficiency solutions can produce electricity and process heat from a single on-site system, delivering high overall efficiencies while bolstering energy resilience and reliability through the underground gas network's firm backup and peak-shaving capability; *now, therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2025 Summer Policy Summit in Boston, Massachusetts, encourages State commissions to become aware of their ability to:

1. Recognize the ability of natural gas energy efficiency programs to support industrial and commercial customers' energy-service needs and State sustainability, resiliency, and economic-development objectives;

2. Understand the full NEBs and avoided-emissions values when applying cost-effectiveness tests to gas energy efficiency portfolios serving C&I customers;

3. Support utility rate and regulatory approaches that allow reasonable recovery of prudent energy efficiency expenditures;

4. Consider a request by the gas utility to deploy high-efficiency technologies such as CHP, advanced industrial process equipment, gas heat pumps, and networked geothermal for C&I applications;

5. Encourage collaboration among gas and electric utilities, C&I customers, and technology providers to evaluate integrated efficiency, load-management, and resilience solutions; *and be it further*

Resolved that NARUC encourages federal agencies, research institutions, and state energy offices to coordinate with State commissions and gas utilities in advancing pilot projects and data-sharing efforts regarding emerging natural-gas efficiency technologies for the commercial and industrial sectors.

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Passed by the Committee on Gas on July 29, 2025.
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on July 30, 2025.

GS-3 Resolution on Promoting and Ensuring Utility Field Worker Safety

Whereas ensuring the safety and security of utility personnel is of the utmost importance;

Whereas utility field workers ensure reliable energy for consumers, enhancing and maintaining utility infrastructure even during extreme weather events;

Whereas utility operations supervisors have documented a troubling increase in violent and/or threatening interactions out in the field during their ordinary duties;

Whereas with the addition of unreported altercations, this trend endangers the safety of the community, as well as the utility field workers, who are dedicated to serving their communities by providing safe, reliable natural gas, electric, and water services;

Whereas utility field workers can often find themselves in a variety of unpredictable and dangerous situations when engaging in bill collecting, responding to community safety calls, restoring or shutting off service, or performing emergency repairs;

Whereas recent attacks and threats on utility field workers show they require additional legal protections to safely perform their jobs;

Whereas failure to improve the daily safety of utility field workers will discourage workforce retention and recruitment while negatively impacting construction projects and customer service;

Whereas states have a history of designating utility field workers as deserving of special status, for example as essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas enhancing and enforcing legal protections sends a clear message that utility field workers are frontline workers and deserve special protections, much like first responders (e.g., law enforcement, firefighters); *and*

Whereas eleven states have enacted legislation to enhance utility field worker protections; *now, therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2025 Summer Policy Summit in Boston, Massachusetts, reiterates its support for utility field worker assault prevention and safety programs and urges state policymakers to take additional steps to protect utility field workers.

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Passed by the Committee on Gas on July 29, 2025.
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on July 30, 2025.

GS-4 Resolution Regarding Natural Gas Pipeline Infrastructure and Storage Expansion

Whereas the Gas-Electric Alignment for Reliability (GEAR) working group, created by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and tasked with convening regulators and industry representatives to develop solutions for improving coordination between the gas and electric industries, has issued recommendations identifying improvements to pipeline infrastructure and expansion of gas storage solutions as essential to reliably meeting the United States' energy needs;

Whereas GEAR identified in its February 2025 Natural Gas Infrastructure Recommendation that the United States requires additional natural gas pipeline infrastructure to support increased capacity and address the nation's evolving energy demands;

Whereas Regional Transmission Operators (RTOs) and Independent System Operators (ISOs), which collectively serve 144 million people across 36 states and the District of Columbia, identify expanding natural gas infrastructure as crucial to improving gas-electric coordination and meeting increased energy demand;

Whereas obstacles hinder the expansion of interstate natural gas pipelines, including insufficient generator acquisition of firm gas products and the need to navigate a lengthy and litigious federal permitting process;

Whereas GEAR recommended active engagement by state regulatory utility commissions, RTOs, and ISOs, which can help identify and address barriers preventing natural gas generation fleets from securing firm transportation or storage rights on pipelines, or firm supply arrangements with producers and marketers;

Whereas GEAR found in its March 2025 Gas Storage Opportunities Recommendation that gas storage plays a critical role in balancing the U.S. energy system; it provides flexibility, affordability, and resilience in response to seasonal variability, weather conditions, and fluctuating consumption patterns;

Whereas storage facilities have proven valuable during high-impact events, and yet structural and regulatory barriers, such as storage capacity constraints, limited withdrawal rates, and long development timelines, continue to limit their overall effectiveness;

Whereas developing new gas storage solutions requires long-term financial commitments and incentives for generators to invest in storage options, including underground and above-ground gas storage and other technologies that enhance energy system reliability;

Whereas strategic investment in underground gas and liquefied natural gas storage facilities, expedited project approvals, better integration of storage's value in state and regional energy planning, and support for low-carbon pathways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions can collectively enhance the flexibility, optionality, and security of the overall energy system; *and*

Whereas legislation aimed at reducing the length, uncertainty, burden, and litigation risk associated with the federal infrastructure permitting process is critical to facilitating the timely completion of infrastructure projects, such as pipeline expansions and new gas storage development; *now, therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of NARUC, convened at its 2025 Summer Policy Summit in Boston, Massachusetts, recommends that states and organized power markets evaluate investments in expanding pipeline capacity and all types of gas storage to improve natural gas delivery.

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Passed by the Committee on Gas on July 29, 2025.
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on July 30, 2025.

GS-5 Resolution Supporting Natural Gas Distribution Pipeline Extensions for Economic Development

Whereas NARUC and its members collectively seek to provide affordable and equitable access to energy for all consumers nationwide;

Whereas access to energy and utility infrastructure are essential to economic development projects;

Whereas properly planned economic development can lead to job creation, with opportunities for family-sustaining jobs and the advancement of vibrant, local communities;

Whereas the Center for Strategic and International Studies published a report on September 10, 2024, discussing the critical role of natural gas in reestablishing the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing while pathways to low-carbon energy production progress;

Whereas certain energy access programs currently exist nationwide that aim to support the construction of the last few miles of natural gas distribution pipelines to connect supply to demand;

Whereas certain state economic development authorities award funding to extend natural gas distribution pipelines for individual development projects and adjacent underserved areas, and to prepare shovel-ready sites to attract business;

Whereas funding through economic development programs can mitigate the costs of natural gas distribution pipeline extensions;

Whereas states that provide economic development funding to extend natural gas distribution pipelines to economic development projects have determined that the policy serves the public interest of the state; *now, therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners, convened at its 2025 Summer Policy Summit in Boston, Massachusetts, supports the ability of states to create or continue State programs that fund natural gas distribution pipeline extensions for economic development projects.

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Passed the Committee on Gas on July 29, 2025.
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on July 30, 2025.

TC-1 Resolution Encouraging the Federal Communications Commission to Develop Mechanisms to Coordinate with State Utility Commissions to Ensure Number Resource Optimization

Whereas in 1991, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) petitioned the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to release a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) seeking information and comment on the administration of the North American Numbering Plan (NANP), the plan for telephone numbering in North America and the Caribbean (NARUC Petition);[2]

Whereas the NARUC Petition noted that Bellcore, the administrator for telephone numbering resources in 1991, indicated that input from state public utility commissions (state commissions) was needed in guiding future telephone numbering activity;[3]

Whereas on July 13, 1995, the FCC issued a Report and Order establishing the North American Numbering Council (NANC), a Federal Advisory Committee (FAC) to advise the FCC on numbering issues, direct the NANP Administrator, apply FCC policy to resolve issues arising in the administration of the NANP, and conduct initial dispute resolution of numbering issues;[4]

Whereas the FCC envisioned that NARUC and state commissions would participate as members of the NANC;[5]

Whereas the first meeting of the NANC was on October 1, 1996;

Whereas since that first meeting, NARUC and state commissions have consistently participated in and led the NANC and several of its working groups;

Whereas the NANC and its working groups have consistently sought input from NARUC and state commissions on a wide range of telephone numbering issues, including the development of NANC reports;

Whereas the NANC provided a forum for industry, state commissions, and other interested parties to jointly resolve telephone numbering issues and disputes;

Whereas the FCC has determined that the NANC will not be rechartered as a FAC after its current charter expires on September 8, 2025;

Whereas the FCC will assume many of the responsibilities of the NANC;

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2 National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Petition for Notice of Inquiry Addressing Administration of the North American Numbering Plan (NARUC Petition), filed September 26, 1991.

3 NARUC Petition at 6-7.

4 *Administration of the North American Numbering Plan*, CC Docket No. 92-237, Report and Order, 11 FCC Rcd 2588, 2608 (July 13, 1995).

5 Report and Order, 11 FCC Rcd 2588, 2609.

Whereas the FCC has delegated many operational numbering activities to state commissions who have used that authority to identify problems with numbering administration and to create potential solutions to those problems;

Whereas with the end of the NANC, state commissions now need a replacement mechanism to communicate with the FCC and industry regarding problems and disputes related to numbering issues; *and*

Whereas state commissions also need more tools and resources to enforce both state and federal numbering rules in conjunction with the FCC; *now therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2025 Summer Policy Summit in Boston, Massachusetts, urges the FCC to develop a formal mechanism, beyond filing a petition, comments, and ex partes in ongoing proceedings, to identify and act upon NARUC and state commission proposals on telephone numbering issues.

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Passed the Committee on Telecommunications on July 28, 2025.
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on July 30, 2025.

TC-2 Resolution in Support of Federal Universal Service Fund Working Group

Whereas on June 12, 2025, Senators Deb Fischer and Ben Ray Luján announced the reconstitution of the Universal Service Fund (USF) Working Group;

Whereas the Universal Service Fund was originally founded as a mechanism by which interstate long-distance carriers were assessed to subsidize telephone service to low-income households and high-cost areas;

Whereas as modified by the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Universal Service Fund now provides affordable, nationwide telephone service by providing access in high-cost areas and supports low-income customers, as well as rural health care providers and eligible schools and libraries;

Whereas the Universal Service Fund supports the development and maintenance of telecommunications infrastructure, to the benefit of consumers and the telecommunications industry as a whole;

Whereas the Universal Service Fund also provides much-needed funding for costly services through programs such as Lifeline and E-Rate, which many states rely on to support their residents;

Whereas universal access to telecommunications services and advanced telecommunications services, such as broadband, provides broad benefits to the nation as a whole;

Whereas the ongoing development of advanced telecommunications services in rural areas will facilitate the use of precision agriculture technology, and allow American producers to remain competitive on the world stage;

Whereas the USF Working Group was originally established in 2023 as a bipartisan and bicameral effort for the purpose of evaluating and proposing potential reforms to the USF with the goal of developing a forum to guide education, awareness, and policymaking;

Whereas states have actively participated in discussions during the initial phase of the USF Working Group;

Whereas the Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service has existed for nearly 30 years, reflects state and federal cooperation, and has made recommendations to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding USF policy;

Whereas the USF Working Group now seeks to close the digital divide with solutions that support sustained access to universal connectivity while improving interagency coordination and eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse;

Whereas states play a vital role in protecting the integrity of the federal USF program through designation of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers under Section 214 of the federal statute; and

Whereas the USF Working Group further seeks to develop long-term solutions for the Universal Service Fund, evaluate broadband programs, and help connect unserved and underserved communities across America, *now, therefore, be it*

Resolved that Congress should consider the recommendations of and seek additional input from the state members of the Federal State Joint Board on Universal Service;

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its 2025 Summer Policy Summit in Boston, Massachusetts, announces its support for the reconstitution of the USF Working Group and its stated purposes of evaluating and proposing potential reforms to the USF for the betterment of the programs it supports and consumers across America.

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Passed the Committee on Telecommunications on July 28, 2025.
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors July 30, 2025