

***Honorary Resolution for Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Chairman Emeritus Linda C. Taliaferro***

WHEREAS, Linda C. Taliaferro died on September 3, 2015; *and*

WHEREAS, Linda Taliaferro was a trailblazer empowering and creating opportunity for women and African Americans in the energy industry; *and*

WHEREAS, Linda was born in Springfield, Mass. and earned a bachelor's degree from Skidmore College, a J.D. from Boston University, and an M.A. from Lutheran Theological Seminary; *and*

WHEREAS, Chairman Taliaferro was appointed by Republican Gov. Richard (Dick) Lewis Thornburgh to a five-year term on the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission in November 1979; she served for 10 years, including a term as the first African American woman to Chair the Pennsylvania PUC at the time of her appointment; Linda was only the third woman to ever serve on the Commission; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Taliaferro played a central role in helping to address numerous major utility issues, including the aftermath of the Three Mile Island accident and the regulation of rates for nuclear generators in Pennsylvania; the break-up of AT&T and restructuring of local telephone companies; deregulation of the trucking industry, accompanied by the PUC's Motor Carrier safety inspections; and early State efforts to promote electric conservation and weatherization programs; *and*

WHEREAS, She was a champion of equality and diversity in the workplace, and a driving force in ethical conduct – creating the PUC's Employee Code of Conduct and Ethics Guide and continuing as an advocate for corporate ethics in the years following her service on the Commission; *and*

WHEREAS, Linda Taliaferro was a member of the founding Board of Directors of the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE), which was incorporated in 1977; AABE continues to thrive today. AABE is a national association of energy professionals founded and dedicated to ensure the input of African Americans and other minorities into the discussions and developments of energy policies, regulations, R&D technologies, and environmental issues; *and*

WHEREAS, Linda Taliaferro was an articulate, caring, and staunchly independent voice for the Commission – committed to serving the public interest, having served as a member of the board of directors of Orange & Rockland Utilities, Inc., and operated a pro bono legal practice to assist minorities and the poor; *and*

WHEREAS, In her free time, Linda had a passion for golf; *and*

WHEREAS, Chairman Taliaferro set an example of leadership and lifelong commitment toward creating opportunities for African Americans and women in the energy industry; *and*

WHEREAS, Chairman Taliaferro was valued throughout NARUC as a friend, colleague, and trusted advisor; her knowledge, experience and ebullience will be greatly missed; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened at its 2016 Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, D.C., extends to the family and friends of the Honorable Chairman Emeritus Linda C. Taliaferro its utmost gratitude and appreciation for her years of service to NARUC and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; *and*

RESOLVED, That the Utility Marketplace Access Subcommittee requests that this honorary resolution be recorded in the public records of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and that NARUC observe a moment of silence in honor of Chairman Taliaferro.

Sponsored by the Committee on Utility Marketplace Access

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on February 17, 2016