

***Resolution Calling For Streamlined Access To Rights Of Way On  
Federal Lands To Accelerate Broadband Deployment***

**WHEREAS**, The timely deployment of broadband-capable facilities is in the public interest and is a stated policy goal of federal and State policymakers; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The federal government owns or administers nearly thirty percent of all land in the United States, with most of this land being in the western part of the nation; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Communications companies have experienced long delays, cumbersome processes and complicated rules to obtain access to rights-of-way, easements, and pole attachments on federal lands; the process is further complicated by varying fees and procedures used by different federal agencies, such as agencies under the Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture, Department of Transportation or Department of Defense; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Draft legislation before the U.S. House of Representatives would require the General Services Administration (GSA) to develop standard forms, fee schedules, and contracts across agencies for wired and wireless broadband infrastructure and would require review of existing procedures to identify opportunities to streamline historic and environmental impact reviews; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The draft would build on a provision in the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 which required GSA to adopt and implement rules for the siting of wireless facilities on federal property but does not address wired facilities; *and*

**WHEREAS**, A process for collaboration among federal, State, United States Territories, local and tribal governments, as well as in consultation with private industry, involved in granting access to rights-of-way, regulating pole attachments and approving easements to builders and providers of broadband services, regardless of technology, would result in a better understanding of existing barriers, improve coordination, and result in a more efficient process at all levels of government; *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., calls upon Congress, relevant federal agencies, the State, United States Territories, local and tribal governments, to simplify and streamline their processes for granting access to rights-of-way, pole attachments and easements on federal lands; *and be it further*

**RESOLVED**, That NARUC urges the creation of a process for collaboration among the agencies at the federal, State, United States Territories, local and tribal governments, as well as in consultation with private industry, to work together to identify existing barriers and develop best practices for granting such access at all levels to improve broadband deployment and access across the nation.

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*Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications*

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