

***Resolution in Support of IP Technology Transitions Which
Preserve the Fundamental Features of Legacy Services***

WHEREAS, Many telecommunications services provided over today's Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) are migrating from Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) to Internet Protocol (IP) technologies; *and*

WHEREAS, The reliability and affordability of the services provided by the IP-based and TDM networks continue to be the cornerstone of the telecommunications compact; *and*

WHEREAS, The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) asked States to comment on “specific criteria for the Commission to use in evaluating applications to discontinue retail services pursuant to section 214 of the Act,” in its Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) in proceedings, GN Docket No. 13-5, RM-11358, WC Docket No. 05-25, RM-1059, released on August 7, 2015; *and*

WHEREAS, Six State Commissions (joint States) jointly filed reply comments in the above-referenced proceeding to support the establishment of clear standards for the performance and availability of the IP-based and TDM networks; *and*

WHEREAS, The joint States support nationwide performance criteria for the replacement networks as well as a review of local considerations such as demographics and geography that may necessitate referral to the States for local testing to ensure the viability of the replacement services and consistency with State service quality and public safety standards; *and*

WHEREAS, The joint States recommend that the FCC at least maintain current service quality standards, require carriers to demonstrate that any replacement service provides at least as much interoperability as the service being retired, and require that the alternative services allow at least the same accessibility, affordability, usability, and compatibility with assistive technologies as the service being discontinued; *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., urges the FCC to adopt specific criteria for the FCC to use in evaluating applications to discontinue retail telecommunications services that preserve fundamental features of legacy services such as connection quality, 9-1-1 and NG-911 access, competitive interconnection, interoperability, affordability, and services for those with disabilities, among other things; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the FCC take note of and implement the recommendations of the joint States in any decision on the service discontinuance process; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the FCC should develop specific objective criteria with which to evaluate whether wholesale services should be preserved and continued after the incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) transitions to alternative technologies, allowing the States to balance

existing policies regarding wholesale access and obligations with the benefits of investment in reliable, robust, and innovative networks.

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