

Resolution Supporting Energy Efficiency

WHEREAS, The United States is in an increasing energy cost environment, both for the cost of energy commodities and new energy infrastructure, such that there is uniform recognition at every level of government and industry that concerted efforts and attention must be focused on ways to conserve energy and utilize it more efficiently in order to reduce the corresponding costs to both consumers and our economy; *and*

WHEREAS, The Department of Energy ("DOE"), the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), and other government and non-profit agencies are working with a number of public and private entities in numerous states to identify, implement and improve public policy and planning efforts related to the achievement of energy efficiency objectives; *and*

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners ("NARUC") adopted a "Resolution on Gas and Electric Energy Efficiency" at its July 2004 meeting that encouraged state policy makers to: (1) support the expansion of energy efficiency programs; (2) review and upgrade energy efficiency standards for buildings and appliances and promote the use of high-efficiency consumer products, including smart metering and information control devices; and (3) recognize that the best approach for promoting such programs may depend on local issues, preferences, and conditions; *and*

WHEREAS, a new 2006 National Action Plan on Energy Efficiency will soon be announced and launched that recommends several key action items for public policymakers and private industry in each region, in the hopes of saving consumers billions of dollars in energy costs over the next 15 years; *and*

WHEREAS, the following five recommendation areas comprise the key elements of the 2006 National Action Plan on Energy Efficiency: (1) Recognize energy efficiency as a high priority energy resource; (2) Make a strong, long-term commitment to cost-effective energy efficiency as a resource; (3) Broadly communicate the benefits of and opportunities for energy efficiency; (4) Promote sufficient, timely, and stable program funding to deliver energy efficiency where cost-effective; and (5) Modify policies to align utility incentives with the delivery of cost-effective energy efficiency and modify ratemaking practices to promote energy efficiency investments; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners ("SEARUC"), convened at its 2006 Annual Conference, supports NARUC's July 2004 "Resolution on Gas and Electric Energy Efficiency", as well as NARUC's continued efforts in this regard; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That SEARUC endorses the principal objectives and recommendations of the 2006 National Action Plan on Energy Efficiency, and commends to its member commissions a state-specific review of the elements and potential applicability of the energy efficiency policy recommendations outlined in the Plan, in an effort to identify potential improvements in energy efficiency policy in each of the SEARUC states.

Sponsored by Commissioner Sandy Hochstetter of Arkansas

Adopted June 18th, 2006 by the SEARUC Members attending the 2006 Annual Business Meeting