WHEREAS, the telecommunications industry is undergoing rapid change due to deregulation, new technologies, restructured enterprises, and expanded services; and

WHEREAS, the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996 deregulated the industry, in part to assist in fostering national economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the state and local tax regime affecting telecommunications services needs to be evaluated and, where necessary, updated to reflect the rapid changes in this industry; and

WHEREAS, the telecommunications industry has indicated its willingness to work with State and local governments to update State and local telecommunications taxation; and

WHEREAS, the telecommunications industry, in partnership with the National Governors’ Association and the National Conference of State Legislatures, have begun a Telecommunications Tax Reform Initiative, the purpose of which is to revamp existing State and local tax systems so that they are more responsive to the realities of the industry’s new business climate; and

WHEREAS, the Multistate Tax Commission, with other state government organizations and State representatives, is actively participating in the reform initiative; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Multistate Tax Commission express appreciation to the telecommunications industry for its willingness to work with, and its continuing commitment to, states and local governments to reform State and local tax systems; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the Multistate Tax Commission work diligently with the telecommunications industry, other state organizations and the States to create a state and local telecommunications tax system that reflects the reality of the telecommunications business and sound fiscal policy for State and local governments.

 Adopted this 28th day of July 2000 by the Multistate Tax Commission.

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Dan R. Bucks, Executive Director