

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

RESOLUTION 2011-5

**SUPPORTING A NATIONAL PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN
ON THE TRANSITION TO MORE EFFICIENT LIGHTING**

- 1 **Whereas**, Congress, in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA), established
2 efficiency standards for light bulbs as it has for many other appliances and equipment; starting in
3 2012 (2011 in California) new light bulbs will have to use 25% to 30% less energy; and
- 4 **Whereas**, traditional incandescent light bulbs are based on a 125-year old technology that wastes
5 up to 90% of the electricity consumed as heat, and the transition to lamps that use 25% to 30%
6 less energy, as required by EISA, is expected to substantially reduce CO₂ emissions; and
- 7 **Whereas**, lighting accounts for approximately 22% of total U.S. electricity usage, and the light
8 bulb efficiency standards, when implemented, should produce substantial energy savings; and
- 9 **Whereas**, traditional incandescent light bulbs will not meet the new efficiency standards, but
10 new lighting technology exists and new options are being brought to market to meet growing
11 demand, including more efficient incandescents, halogen incandescents, compact fluorescents
12 (CFL) and light-emitting diodes (LED); and
- 13 **Whereas**, to ease the move to more energy efficient lighting, EISA established a scheduled
14 phase-in of the efficiency standards for light bulbs starting with the highest wattage bulbs. The
15 transition schedule is as follows: 100 watt – January 2012; 75 watt – January 2013; 60 watt and
16 40 watt – January 2014; and
- 17 **Whereas**, NASUCA has a long history of supporting appliance and equipment energy efficiency
18 standards, including, most recently, Resolution 2008-05, which states that increased energy
19 efficiency standards for lighting should be actively promoted, and Resolution 2009-2, which
20 states that NASUCA continues its long tradition of support for the adoption of cost-effective
21 energy efficiency programs as a means to reduce customer utility bills, help mitigate the need for
22 new utility infrastructure, and provide important environmental benefits; and
- 23 **Whereas**, appliance and equipment efficiency standards are among the most cost-effective means
24 of achieving energy efficiency, leading to reduced energy bills for residential and business
25 consumers, emissions reductions, job growth, improved reliability, and reduced demand pressure
26 on energy prices; and
- 27 **Whereas**, because many consumers are not aware of the efforts to phase out less energy-efficient
28 incandescent light bulbs and may be confused by the unavailability of incandescent light bulbs,
29 it is imperative that consumers be fully informed about the new lighting options and the potential
30 energy efficiency long-term cost-savings of each type of lighting option; and

31 **Whereas**, consumers may have questions regarding the disposal of compact fluorescent lamps
32 (CFLs) that contain minimal amounts of mercury, or the disposal of other energy-efficient light
33 bulbs; and

34 **Whereas**, within the next year, packaging on light bulbs will be designed to help consumers
35 choose among the different types on the market – traditional incandescents, halogen and other
36 efficient incandescents, CFLs, and light-emitting diodes (LED); and

37 **Whereas**, for the first time, the label on the front of the package will compare light bulb
38 brightness as measured in lumens, rather than watts, along with the estimated yearly energy costs
39 for the particular type of bulb; and

40 **Whereas**, the transition to new light bulbs, coupled with the change in labeling from watts to
41 lumens, could increase consumer confusion and frustration; and

42 **Whereas**, in order to achieve a successful transition to more energy-efficient light bulbs, a
43 national education and outreach effort is needed to bring awareness and information to
44 consumers about new light bulb efficiencies, labeling standards, and cost benefits;

45 **Now, therefore, be it resolved**, that NASUCA supports efforts by the U.S. Department of
46 Energy, other governmental bodies, manufacturers, retailers, utilities, and other entities to
47 educate consumers and the public on the transition to energy and cost-efficient light bulbs, new
48 labels based on lumens instead of watts, and proper disposal of CFLs;

49 **Be it further resolved**, that NASUCA authorizes its Executive Committee to develop specific
50 positions and take appropriate actions consistent with the terms of this resolution. The Executive
51 Committee shall advise the membership of any proposed action prior to taking action if possible.
52 In any event the Executive Committee shall notify the membership of any action pursuant to this
53 resolution.

Submitted by Consumer Protection Committee

Approved June 28, 2011
San Antonio, Texas