

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA  
MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** July 18, 2016

**TO:** The Commission  
Stephanie Mullen, Executive Director  
**Via:** Anne-Marie Cuneo, DRO *AMC*  
Tammy Cordova, Staff Counsel *TC/MCQ*

**FROM:** Samuel S. Crano, Assistant Staff Counsel *SC/MCQ*

**SUBJECT:** Report on National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications from January 1, 2016, through June 30, 2016.

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I am a member of the Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). I have not attended any full NARUC events in person.

As part of the Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications, I frequently take part in a telephone conference held monthly, which is coordinated by various members of the Staff Subcommittee on Telecommunications or Brad Ramsay, General Counsel at NARUC who focuses on telecommunications matters. These telephone conferences typically last one hour and center on a variety of issues, including: recent or upcoming decisions from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC); upcoming NARUC meetings; hot topic issues; important telecommunications-related matters in the courts or in Congress; and state issues or concerns related to telecommunications.

The Staff Telecommunications Subcommittee has been focusing on the recent trend towards lifeline designation for broadband, and the federal push to expand broadband deployment. This includes coordinating on a challenge to a recent FCC Order that vests more power for designating carriers as Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (“ETCs”) in the FCC and seems to encroach on State sovereignty, as the states, such as Nevada, who chose to exercise the power to designate ETCs were, prior to the recent Order, the sole entity with the authority to do so within their state boundaries. Additionally, the Subcommittee has been discussing the influence of technology and how the telecommunications industry is changing by rapidly progressing technology. The FCC recently (Friday, July 15, 2016) released an Order on technology transition. On first blush, it does not seem to similarly impact State sovereignty, but the Subcommittee members are still reviewing.