WHEREAS, the 56 State and Territory Energy Offices and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) have long recognized the importance of energy emergency and energy-related cyber security planning, preparedness, and response;

WHEREAS, there is a critical need to assure informed crisis communications and information sharing among the governors, state and federal energy officials, private sector energy and interdependent infrastructure providers, and the public;

WHEREAS, threats and hazards to the nation’s energy system and resources – oil, gasoline and other petroleum products, propane, natural gas, coal, electricity – continue to pose significant economic and human consequences;

WHEREAS, energy emergency exercises have highlighted the continued need to assure states’ capacity to coordinate with the federal government and private sector in planning for and responding to energy supply disruptions that can cause energy emergencies;

WHEREAS, most states have not updated their energy assurance plans since 2012 and a variety of risks, such as cyber security threats to the electricity, natural gas, and petroleum systems are not fully accounted for in most plans;

WHEREAS, the bipartisan Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, or FAST Act, was passed by Congress in 2015 and called for significant improvements in energy emergency coordination and response among state, federal, and private energy providers and the states called upon the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to revive the "Agreement for Enhanced Federal and State Energy Emergency Coordination, Communications, and Information Sharing". The state-led agreement was renewed in 2016 between NASEO, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, National Governors Association, National Emergency Management Association, and DOE to prioritize and improve energy emergency communication protocols and information sharing during in the event of energy emergencies and shortages.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NASEO Board of Directors encourages state energy officials, regulators, and other agencies responsible for energy emergency planning to review and update state plans as needed to ensure that an “all hazards” approach, including energy-related critical infrastructure interdependencies and cyber security, are addressed in the plans. This update should reflect evolving state and federal organizational structures, roles and responsibilities, and other critical planning needs such as responding to petroleum shortages and energy disruptions from cyber incidents. NASEO will continue to support states’ efforts to update their energy assurance plans and maintain their preparedness capabilities;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NASEO under the “Agreement for Enhanced Federal and State Energy Emergency Coordination, Communications, and Information Sharing” calls upon states to review and update, as needed, their Energy Emergency Assurance Coordinators points of contact and assure that these individuals understand their role and responsibilities under this agreement.

Recommended by NASEO’s Energy Security Committee and adopted by the NASEO Board of Directors on April 27, 2017.