



arvc NATIONAL POLICIES & POSITION STATEMENTS

2017 Edition

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arVC recognizes the value of outdoor advertising as a means of attracting customers to our campgrounds. At the same time, arvc does not advocate, condone or defend the indiscriminate use of billboard advertising. arVC encourages its members to obey state and federal laws, and to show conscience and social responsibility in the design and placement of signs.

Following are some of arVC 's specific policies and philosophies regarding billboard advertising.

1. arVC will not defend illegally-placed billboards or signs.
2. arVC feels that outdoor billboard signs must be attractively maintained and that state and local laws should be designed to assure that owners of billboards can properly maintain the structures in a safe and attractive manner.
3. arVC believes that, for the campground industry, informational and directional billboard signs are of primary importance. arVC recognizes, as well, the value of billboards in establishing name identification for an advertiser.
4. arVC supports logo signs on the interstate highway system, and supports the idea of extending logo signs to other road systems as a supplement to private signs providing traveler information. arVC also supports the use of Tourism Oriented Directional Signs (TODS) where appropriate.
5. arVC believes that state and local authorities have the necessary authority to regulate the use of billboards in certain areas of outstanding scenic beauty and that further legislation and/or regulation is unnecessary.
6. arVC supports the concept of fair and just compensation to the owner of billboards should local, state or federal authorities adopt legislation regarding the removal of bill-boards.

(Also reference Series 1030, Policy on 2003 Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization)

Approved: April 21-23, 1990
Amended: April 7-9, 1991, April 4, 2009
Amended: November 6, 2017

**GRASSROOTS LOBBYING & SUPPORT OF arVC FEDERAL
PUBLIC AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES**

The operation of a federal public affairs program by the National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds is a critical part of the association's activities. arVC Public Affairs activities include, but are not necessarily limited to:

1. Providing information and representing the interests of the industry to members of the Congress
(House and Senate), congressional staff, and congressional agencies such as the Congressional Research Service, the Congressional Budget Office, the Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus, etc.
2. Providing information and representing the interests of the industry to Executive Branch federal agencies.
3. Providing information and representing the interests of the industry to independent federal agencies.
4. Providing, upon request by a member and/or partnering state association, and within the resources available, third party testimony and expert advice to state legislatures and agencies.
5. Participation in coalitions and organizations whose purposes are to promote positions deemed to be in the best interests of the National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds.
6. Establishing and maintaining contacts with national associations whose interests and positions are compatible with the campground industry, or whose actions and involvement may impact upon the travel, tourism and recreation industries.

The execution and implementation of the arVC Public Affairs policies is the responsibility of the President of arVC.

arVC policies are determined by the arVC Board of Directors in accordance with recommendations put forth by the Public Affairs Committee and/or resolutions adopted by the membership.

In many instances, public affairs issues can best be addressed by enrolling the assistance of various individual members of arVC and/or partnering state associations.

When, in the judgment of the arVC President and Public Affairs Committee, it is necessary to actively involve the membership of arVC in a public affairs issue, the following policies shall guide that involvement:

1. Request each partnering association shall designate one individual to serve as public affairs liaison with the national arvc headquarters. That individual shall coordinate necessary actions suggested by arVC.
2. arVC shall provide, to its maximum ability, necessary data, information, intelligence, materials and other forms of support, to the state liaison for distribution.
3. arVC shall provide necessary guidance, assist in making contacts, and monitor the results of grassroots contacts and lobbying.

4. Although not all states may share concern over an issue in an equal fashion, all states should respond when requested to become involved.
5. Request each state should create a "quick action network" which can mobilize member action quickly when needed.
6. arVC may contact members directly to enlist their assistance.

At times, arVC may be called upon to provide financial support for candidates for federal office. arVC does not maintain a political action committee and cannot expend association funds for donations to candidates. When it is deemed to be in the interest of the industry to support a candidate, the arVC President may seek support from state association executives and leaders and from individual members residing in the state or district of the candidate involved.

At times, individual members of arVC may wish to enlist the support of arVC in a federal issue. In those cases, the following guidelines apply:

1. Members of arVC are encouraged to first contact their state association, if one exists in their state, and advise the state president and/or executive director of the issue.
2. The state president and/or executive director should analyze the information received from the member and make the determination if it is necessary to contact the national arVC office.
3. When an issue is referred to arVC for assistance, the referring state and/or member must be prepared to take an active role in working the issue by making contacts with state and federal officials as directed by arVC.

Approved: November 26-27, 1990

Amended: April 4, 2009

Amended: November 6, 2017

POLICY ON COMMERCIALIZATION OF ROADSIDE REST AREAS ON INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS **SERIES 1004**

Whereas, the states have already constructed over 1,400 interstate rest areas with several hundred more scheduled to be constructed, and

Whereas, such rest areas meet the needs of a majority of travelers requiring to use restroom facilities, make telephone calls, and purchase snack food and drinks, and

Whereas, there are already sufficient existing traveler services located in thousands of small communities at interstate interchanges that would be in great jeopardy should interstate highways permit commercialization of rest areas, and

Whereas, these businesses, representing both small proprietor- ships and large corporations, have invested millions of dollars to serve the needs of the traveler, and

Whereas, the economic viability of many towns and communities along the interstate highways rely on travelers for their livelihoods, and

Whereas, the investment required to provide services along the interstates directly would be substantial and generally tend to place local and/or smaller businesses at great disadvantage, therefore,

The National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds is of the position that the states should not be permitted to commercialize interstate rest areas and,

Shall actively represent this position to the Federal Highway Administration and the US Senate and House of Representatives.

Further, the ARVC shall work together with like-minded associations, coalitions and interests in attempting to defeat legislation that would permit such commercialization.

(Also reference Series 1030 Policy on 2003 Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization)

Approved: November 26 & 27, 1991

CORPORATE AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY STANDARDS (CAFE)

SERIES 1005

WHEREAS, the camping industry is concerned about fuel economy and reliance upon foreign energy sources legislation, and

WHEREAS, a major increase in corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards would sharply limit consumers' choice of vehicles, limiting them to choose from mini-compact, subcompact and compact cars, few of which are useful in towing or trailering equipment and other items used by campers, which significantly disrupts vehicle choice, and

WHEREAS, many safety experts have expressed concern that a drastic increase in the CAFE standards would increase risk of fatalities and injuries because of smaller and lighter operating on the roads and highways, now therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds opposes legislation which would drastically increase CAFE standards for cars, pickup trucks and vans, and would negatively impact on the availability and cost of vehicles used for recreational purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to each member of Congress.

Amended: April 4, 2009

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

SERIES 1006

The National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds (arVC) supports the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act and will provide our members with information and guidance to facilitate compliance as it becomes readily achievable as defined by the ADA and enforced by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Further, arVC believes that all parks should provide a safe and inviting environment with facilities and amenities accessible to all, including those with disabilities. arVC will continue to monitor rules for Outdoor Developed Areas and provide input to the US Access Board on any new proposed rules.

arVC will work with the US Access Board to achieve regulations that are reasonable and attainable by the private RV park & campground industry and meet the needs of all guests.

Adopted: December 6-9, 1992

Amended: April 10, 2014

Amended: November 6, 2017

NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

SERIES 1007

The National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds favors a comprehensive, balanced national energy strategy. Such a strategy can make an important contribution towards our nation's energy and economic security. The arVC believes that a national energy strategy for the United States should include:

- *incentives and/or provisions that facilitate the search for domestic energy sources which could be developed and are economical and environmentally acceptable.

- *incentives and programs to encourage increased research to develop alternative fuels that are technologically viable, affordable and safe.

- *incentives and programs that will assure that cost efficient, safe, and energy efficient products are widely available.

arVC supports modest increases in the federal motor fuels tax sufficient to provide funding to meet the national highway needs only if all motor fuel tax revenues are specifically earmarked for the Highway Trust Fund.

arVC supports oil exploration and extraction to increase the nation's supply of domestic energy provided that such exploration and extraction utilizes the best available technology to minimize any harm to the natural environment and wildlife.

Approved: April 28-29, 2001
Revised January 31, 2004
Amended: April 4, 2009

POLICY ON YEAR ROUND SCHOOLS

SERIES 1009

The National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds supports quality education and learning opportunities and those reforms that improve academic performance in the classroom.

Based on available research, we see little evidence that a year-round calendar significantly improves the quality of education and academic achievement.

We support efforts to monitor year-round schools and their impact on education and to offer the public additional information on the issue.

Until there is proof that year-round schools significantly improve the quality of education, the Association cannot endorse the concept and will support only those education reforms proven to enhance education and cost efficiency.

Approved: Nov 29, 30 and Dec 1, 1993
Amended: April 4, 2009

**POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC AGENCY DEVELOPMENT OF
PRIVATE SECTOR CONCESSION OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE OPERATION
OF CAMPGROUNDS & RV PARKS**

SERIES 1010

arvc supports the private sector operation of public facilities and encourages local, state, and federal governments to utilize the concession method of operation wherever appropriate. arvc supports the awarding of concessions, permits and contracts to the private sector for the commercial development and operation of recreation areas that provide services to the public that are inherently commercial in nature and which would support a private sector operation, if those services cannot be provided by existing private sector businesses in the nearby area. This concept is further clarified and developed in THE NATIONAL ARVC POSITION ON PUBLIC LANDS AND CAMPGROUNDS Series 1017.

The first type of concession will appeal to larger companies whose expertise is as likely to be in real estate development as it is in recreational facility operation. There are financially capable firms with expertise in campground/RV park development and operations on a large scale but they are few and far between.

arVC strongly urges public agencies to make a special effort to seek out companies whose background and history in development and operations demonstrate successful experience in the RV Park and campground business.

arVC believes that campground development in the public sector should be governed by the NFPA 1194 National Standard for Recreational Vehicle Parks and Campgrounds and that this document should be referenced in bid solicitations. The standard contains definitions and guidelines that are familiar to the private sector and that have been developed through a national consensus process to provide the kind of experience that guests anticipate.

The following guidelines are generic and should be considered by all public agencies preparing bid solicitations to attract private sector concessionaires to operate public facilities.

1. The minimum number of sites needed to make a project economically viable will generally be determined by the projected cost of construction combined with factors such as projected occupancy rates, consumer appeal of the area, and projected maximum fees which anticipated traffic will bear the area. Dispersing or spreading the sites over a usually large area increases construction and operational cost therefore would likely increase the number of sites necessary for a viable project.

2. RV park and campground facilities may range in densities from 5 to 25 sites per acre. The density will depend on the type of outdoor experience the sponsoring agency wishes to offer, the need to protect the environment and natural setting. With add-on appendages many of today's RVs (awnings and slide outs, for example) there should be adequate distance between sites to allow flexibility in the use of the sites consistent with privacy and protection provided for adjacent campers. The minimum accepted standard for separation between camping units (RVs or tents) is 10 feet.

3. It is impossible to calculate development costs on anything other than a project by project basis. When all development cost are considered (roads, utilities, restrooms, shelters, pools, etc.) typical development costs range upward from \$10,000 per site. If the private developer is faced with additional "impact fees" assessed by local jurisdictions to cover environmental impact of the project the feasibility of the project changes significantly.

It is the responsibility of the sponsoring agency to conduct its own environmental studies of the proposed location prior to soliciting bidders. Bidders should be assured that they are bidding on a site that is approved for the type of facility desired by the sponsoring agency.

4. If availability of water and/or sewage is limited, the costs associated with developing campgrounds and the minimum number of sites required for economic viability must be judged in a manner similar to #1 above. Additional costs associated with providing water and sewage services will obviously increase the cost of operations and will impact on the economic viability of the project.

5. Agencies should consider that for a ground-up development project with the attendant risks, a developer would expect a minimum 20% cash return on their cash investment. For smaller projects where a concessionaire is assuming responsibility for operations of an existing facility, the risks are far less and a return in 12-15% range might be considered acceptable.

6. The minimum season of operation and the occupancy rates are variables based on location and camper preference. The public agency should allow the operator flexibility to operate the facility when the operator believes it is economically important to do so. Restricting the length of season unnecessarily may place a burden on the campground operator and may reduce the attractiveness of a request for proposal (RFP) opportunity.

7. Offering inaccessible, low traffic, low demand areas and sites with extreme development difficulties (far from utilities, inhospitable terrain, no recreational amenities, etc.) will not attract qualified and capable concessionaires. The practice of offering highly attractive opportunities to a concessionaire only when the concessionaire agrees to operate unattractive locations should be avoided.
8. Additional amenities and services to be offered by the operator beyond camping sites are critical to the success of the venture. Private sector operators should be permitted to operate camp stores, laundry facilities, recreation equipment rentals, marinas and boat launch areas, food services, vending machines, ice and firewood services, bait and tackle shops, and other services consistent with consumer needs and the experience that the public agency wishes to provide.
9. Concessionaires should not be bound to honor multiple use passes and other federal, state or local discount programs unless they are given wide leeway in setting prices and fees.
10. Participation in national and state reservation systems should be optional since it increases costs of operation and may not be cost effective in all cases.
11. RFP's should stipulate levels of customer service desired by the sponsoring agency. As bid solicitations often stipulate how often bathrooms should be cleaned, similar standards for how customers should be served should also be requested from bidders. This is an important element in that it provides evidence of how the bidder understands the nature of the campground business.
12. Public agencies need to establish consistent levels of service and information to the private sector. Differences between area offices, regions, etc. are obstacles that stand in the way of appropriate relationships between government and the private sector. This is confusing to business people who may be dealing with many jurisdictions simultaneously. The system within each government agency need to be more coherent.
13. Documentation and requests for proposals (RFP) should be simple and clear. Proposals and public information are often too lengthy, overly technical and legal, and generally difficult to read and understand. Again, consistency throughout the public agencies involved is important when dealing with businesses that do business all over the United States.
14. The use of a "preferred bidders list" should be abolished and contracts should be awarded based solely on ability to perform.

The arVC Public-Private Competition Policy, as adopted by the Board of Directors on May 7-8, 1993 shall be a part of this position statement and be appended hereto.

This paper is not exhaustive but is intended to provide public agencies with basic guidelines for approaching the private sector when it is determined that campground facilities and encourages local, state, and federal government to utilize the concession method of operation whenever possible.

arVC supports the private sector operation of public facilities and encourages local, state and federal government to utilize the concession method of operation whenever possible.

Approved: April 23-24, 1994

Amended: April 4, 2009
Amended: November 6, 2017

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY STATEMENT

SERIES 1012

arVC Association Environmental Policies

The arVC Board of Directors is concerned about the changing environment and its impact on the world and the RV industry. We will work as an organized and cohesive body that will increase efforts and be part of the solution.

arVC shall play a leadership role in creating awareness within the RV industry and the public of the importance of environmental issues.

arVC environmental policies will apply to the operations of the association and provide guidance for the business activities of association members.

arVC ethics include the maintaining the integrity of the land by working with the conservation of air, water, soil quality, conservation of natural resources and energy, safe waste disposal, and the maintenance of the integrity and beauty of all land.

arVC will...

1. Support educational efforts to preserve and protect our environment. We seek to inspire our campers and guest to begin their own earth-friendly campaigns.
2. Factor the environmental ramifications of our actions on all issues, and when fiscally feasible, choose the environmentally sound process.
3. Encourage and initiate, whenever possible, conservation and protection programs that benefit society.
4. Operate pro-environmentally by evaluating facilities and operations and implementing applicable appropriate changes.
5. Ensure the integrity of wilderness and remote areas by
 - (a) promoting the responsible use of all lands
 - (b) taking necessary steps to avoid contaminating or otherwise doing harm to the natural environments.
6. Encourage the proliferation of native species of animals and plant life
7. Promote providing natural plots and safe havens on our lands.

arVC Eco-Friendly Recommendations for Association Members

arVC recommends that RV parks...

1. Actively demonstrate and communicate conservation and recycling practices to employees and guests.
2. Use energy-saving products and appliances.

3. Use motion sensors or other lighting control devices.
4. Use non-toxic biodegradable cleaning products.
5. Invest in landscaping practices and techniques that minimize water usage.
6. Uses landscaping that consists of wood chip, pebble, paved, or grass paths.
7. Uses post-consumer recycled products.
8. Participates in on-site organic composting.
9. Utilizes energy-efficient lighting products and solutions.
10. Uses programmable devices and/or timers for thermostats and/or sprinkler systems.
11. Utilizes renewable energy power sources.
12. Uses low voltage lighting kits to light walkways, patios, decks, etc.
13. Uses water-saving faucets, toilets, shower heads, water heaters and/or laundry.
14. Utilizes recycle water systems.
15. Recycles hazardous waste materials (i.e.: batteries, electronics, toxic chemicals).

Approved: December 9, 1991

Amended: April 4, 2009

Amended: November 6, 2017

**POLICY ON EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE INCREASED
TRAVEL TO THE US**

SERIES 1013

1. arVC clearly supports the need for there to be an agency whose primary function is to encourage people from around the world to visit the United States and to provide basic information about touring and traveling in the US. To this end, Congress passed the Travel Promotion Act in 2010 to create the Corporation for Travel Promotion which began operations in May 2011 and does business as Brand USA. More information about the Brand USA program can be found here: www.thebrandusa.com.
2. arVC believes that the federal government must provide a majority of the funds necessary to assure that this function is appropriately carried out. Brand USA is funded through a combination of private-sector investment and matching funds collected by the U.S. Government from international visitors who come to the U.S. under the Visa Waiver Program. arVC has no objection to this funding model.
3. arVC supports and will continue to support Brand USA's activities as long as the needs, rights and competitive position of small business are guaranteed at all times.

Approved: April 28-30, 1995

Amended: April 4, 2009

Amended: November 6, 2017

POLICY ON THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

SERIES 1015

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 and since January 13, 2012, has served as a Cabinet-level agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation.

Small business has a significant impact on the economy in the United States and arvc supports a Cabinet-level position for the Administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA) to assure that the special needs of smaller businesses are considered in the development of all public policy at the highest levels of government.

Approved: April 28-31, 1995

Amended: November 6, 2017

THE NATIONAL ARVC POSITION ON PUBLIC LANDS AND CAMPGROUNDS SERIES 1017

arvc supports convenient and open access of appropriate areas on public lands for motorized and nonmotorized recreation. arvc supports using public lands to meet the needs of a diverse recreating public, while working jointly with public and private interests to assure that the environmental concerns remain of paramount importance.

arvc considers the existing public lands to be national treasures which should remain in the public domain and which should be available for the enjoyment of all Americans and international visitors. arvc strongly advocates maintaining quality visitor services at these locations while preserving and protecting the natural state of our most treasured resources.

Currently, there are approximately 64 million campers among the American population which represents a wide diversity of camping experiences. arvc believes that rustic camping experiences may be provided by the public sector. arvc considers rustic campgrounds to be those identified as “Semi-Developed Campgrounds” in the NFPA 1194 Standard for RV Parks & Campgrounds. That standard defines Semi-Developed Campgrounds as “A campground with two or more recreational vehicle or recreational park trailer unit sites, accessible by vehicular traffic. Roads, facilities (toilets and/or privies) are provided...”

arvc opposes the use of public funds or private investments for the construction, upgrading and/or operation of RV parks and campgrounds by federal, state or local government entities or private concessionaires, if those public funds or private investments are used to create facilities containing amenities of the type typically found in developed RV parks and campgrounds as described in the current NFPA standard, 1194, and when those facilities can be provided by existing private sector RV parks and campgrounds in the nearby area, regardless of whether they are to be concessioned to a commercial operator or operated by government.

National arvc opposes government operation of any commercial enterprise that would be in direct competition with private enterprise. We see no valid reason for government at any level to engage in

activities that are non-governmental. We do not believe that government entities should ever compete with taxpaying businesses.

New facility development, expansion and upgrades which would create facilities containing amenities of the type typically found in developed RV parks and campgrounds as described in NFPA standard 1194, are inappropriate on public lands, whether by a public agency or concessionaire, if the existing private sector in the nearby area is capable of adequately meeting the market demand.

arVC advocates the continued development and expansion of new public sector recreation facilities that are unique to the public domain and that are not inherently commercial services. Further, arVC supports upgrading and protecting existing recreational facilities to assure that they remain available to the public and are adequate for intended recreation purposes. Examples of public facilities appropriate for government involvement are hiking trails, public fishing areas, trail heads, wildlife propagation, wilderness and primitive camping areas, scenic vistas and viewing areas, and archeological, historic and cultural sites.

arVC supports the adoption and implementation of entrance and recreation fees that permit government to recover much of the cost of operating recreation areas for public use and provides for the retention of fees at the location where they are raised. The fees shall be used first to reduce the backlog of maintenance currently existing on federal lands, and then for the regular maintenance and operating needs of public land recreation facilities. Further, fees should be established to reflect the true cost of operating campground facilities.

Construction of new facilities of any kind shall only be authorized through the regular federal legislative process. Before authorizing the construction or upgrading of any new campgrounds operating on public lands beyond a semi-developed state, an economic impact study, an environmental impact study and a market analysis should be undertaken, published and distributed to all interested parties.

Campgrounds operating on public lands by a public agency or concession operator shall comply with all laws, standards and regulations governing the operation of commercial campgrounds on private lands.

Public campgrounds shall be governed by the same highway signage rules and access that govern commercial facilities.

arVC supports the Federal government providing consolidated, valid and up-to-date information about recreation opportunities and facilities available to the public on all Federal lands in a single location or website, as long as this information is not provided in a manner that has an unfairly competitive impact on private sector businesses. arVC believes that the Federal government should not provide public land recreation information in an interactive system that would allow the public to make reservations directly or through electronic "links," but instead the Federal government should solely rely on the private sector (and on state and local tourism agencies) to provide interactive information systems and for the commercial marketing of all Federal land recreation information.

arVC supports the awarding of concessions, permits and contracts to the private sector for the commercial development and operation of recreation areas that provide services to the public that are inherently commercial in nature and which would support a private sector operation, if those services cannot be provided by existing private sector businesses in the nearby area. Guidelines for awarding concessions are included in a paper issued by arVC in 1994 and entitled Suggested Guidelines for Public Agencies Developing Private Sector Concession Opportunities for the Operation of Campgrounds and RV Parks. Public sector charges for services shall be based on prevailing rates for comparable amenities and services available in similar facilities within the same geographical area.

Notwithstanding previously stated competition, arvc supports the establishment of a level playing field between public land concession operators and nearby private sector, commercial enterprises. Further, arvc supports the posting of concession opportunities in a manner that permits local and small business interests to access the information on opportunities in their areas.

Approved: May 2, 1997
Amended: November 18, 2002
Amended: April 17, 2003
Amended: April 4, 2009

POLICY ON GLOBAL CLIMATE POLICY

SERIES 1018

WHEREAS, the preservation of the Earth’s environment and climate are of great importance to the recreation community; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of opportunities of Americans to enjoy outdoor recreational opportunities are also of great importance; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Government is currently involved in international negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with the objective of reducing worldwide emissions of man-made “greenhouse gases” in the post-2000 period; and

WHEREAS, emissions reductions would require cutbacks in energy use and higher energy prices, which could affect the American economy, individual, lifestyles and opportunities for travel and recreation; and

WHEREAS, greenhouse gas emissions from developing nations are increasing rapidly, and will surpass those of the U.S. and other developed nations within 20 years, so that the proposed agreement would not reduce total worldwide emissions; and

WHEREAS, there is still considerable uncertainty surrounding the theories on climate change, which form the basis for the proposed climate agreement; and

WHEREAS, more research, data collection and scientific analysis are needed to refine computer models and improve understanding of climate science;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds:

- (1) urges the President and Congress to undertake additional necessary studies to improve understanding of climate science and human impacts on climate, in order to determine what (if any) national and international policies may be needed to minimize man-made impacts; and
- (2) pending that review, urges the President not to commit the U.S. to any agreement that would adversely affect our economy and lifestyles, including recreational opportunities, while exempting so-called “developing” nations from similar controls; and

- (3) urges the U.S. Congress not to approve any such agreement, pending further scientific research and data collection.

Adopted: November 17, 1998

Amended: April 4, 2009

POSITION ON THE NATIONAL RESERVATION SYSTEM

SERIES 1019

arVC has stated its support for the national reservation system provided it is funded by user fees and provided that the private sector is invited to participate in the system on an equal basis, including referrals, with those operating similar facilities on public lands.

Approved: April 28, 1998

POLICY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FAIR ACT

SERIES 1020

arVC commends the 105th Congress for its passage of P.L. 105-270, the "Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998" (FAIR Act), as a milestone in efforts to reduce unfair competition for private businesses from Federal government agencies.

To ensure that the intent and purpose of the FAIR Act are realized, arvc pledges to:

- (1) Ensure that all appropriate Federal agencies include RV parks and campgrounds on their lists of functions that are "not inherently governmental," as defined by the FAIR Act;
- (2) Work with other organizations and coalitions to ensure that the Federal Office of Management and Budget and all other Federal agencies fully implement the FAIR Act as intended by Congress as expeditiously as possible;
- (3) Work with other organizations and coalitions to strengthen the FAIR Act so that unfair competition for private businesses from Federal agencies is further reduced.

Approved: April 10, 1999

POSITION CONCERNING THE RECREATION FEE PROGRAM

SERIES 1022

The National arVC supports the national recreation fee program as a reasonable and equitable means of requiring users of Federal public lands to pay more of the costs of operating those lands so that the costs associated with maintaining those lands are borne increasingly by land users, and so that the cost of such use is more comparable to the cost of suing private recreation facilities, provided:

1. That the revenue generated by the fee program (e.g. 80%) is allocated to the public land location where it was collected;

2. That fees must be similar between public land properties and private sector facilities in the same geographic area that provide similar facilities and attractions; and
3. That recreation fee revenue is used only for the maintenance and operation of existing facilities and for the development and expansion of public sector facilities that do not compete unfairly with private commercial facilities. Federal agencies must conduct comparative assessments of the potential impact on private sector businesses of projects funded with recreation fee revenue.
4. Any long term (e.g. 5 or more years) extension of the fee program or any permanent fee program must include strong and specific safeguards that prohibit use of fee revenue for programs or activities or facilities that are inherently commercial.

Approved: April 10, 1999
Revised January 28, 2002
Revised January 31, 2004
Amended: April 4, 2009

The Association adopted the following Recreation Fee guidelines regarding the impact of the Fee Recreation Program on the private sector.

Guidelines:

- To ensure that private sector businesses do not suffer an adverse economic impact, expenditures from recreation fee revenue should not be used to finance construction, expansion or modernization facilities or programs that are or could be provided by nearby commercial businesses.
- Where there is the possibility of an adverse economic impact, the agency should conduct a comparative market analysis to determine whether nearby commercial businesses are providing the particular recreation service at a sufficient level to satisfy public demand.
- The level of recreation fees charged by the agency should be comparable to those charged by the nearby private sector for similar facilities and services.

Approved: April 16, 2005

**POSITION ON COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE STANDARDS
LAWS, ORDINANCES & REGULATIONS**

SERIES 1023

The National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds (arvc) recognizes and supports the consumer's right and freedom to obtain the maximum use and benefit of their recreational vehicles and to utilize a range of camping facilities, both public and private, as they travel throughout our country.

arvc supports and encourages members to provide a quality camping experience by adhering to national, state and local ordinances and regulations and by operating facilities in compliance with national standards such as the NFPA 1194 National Standard for Recreational Vehicle Parks & Campgrounds, the National Electrical Code NFPA 70 and the Uniform Plumbing Code. arvc recognizes that the life, safety and health of the RVer/camper is paramount and the ordinances, regulations and standards are designed to assure the safety of both the RVer/camper and the community in which overnight camping facilities are provided.

To regularly and consistently assure a safe and enjoyable RV experience, arvc encourages consumers, whenever possible, to utilize only those overnight facilities and parks that comply with the NFPA's 1194 National Standard for Recreational Vehicle Parks & Campgrounds and all local, state and federal regulations and laws applicable to the operation of campgrounds and RV parks.

arVC will work to:

1. Develop and Maintain NFPA 1194 Standards
2. Participate on NFPA's standards panel through ongoing representation on the panel
3. Encourage arVC members to participate in the process and propose best practices for inclusion in NFPA 1194
4. Encourage state and local authorities having jurisdiction to adopt and follow the guidelines of NFPA 1194

Approved: January 30, 2000

Amended: April 9, 2003

Amended: April 4, 2009

Amended: December 2, 2014

Amended: November 6, 2017

POLICY ON GOVERNMENT COMPETITION WITH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SERIES 1024

National arVC opposes government operation of any commercial enterprise that would be in direct competition with private enterprise. We see no valid reason for government at any level to engage in activities that are non-governmental. We do not believe that government entities should ever compete with taxpaying businesses.

Approved April 28 – 29, 2001

POLICY ON ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND TAX REFORM SERIES 1027

arVC considers reducing and eventual elimination of the federal deficit to be of paramount importance to the long term economic health of the US.

Approved February 2, 2003

Amended: April 4, 2009

POLICY ON STATE TOURISM FUNDING SERIES 1028

Whereas tourism and recreation are everywhere mainstays of state and local economies, and

Whereas tourism and recreation business creates and supports jobs and state and local tax revenue in every state, and

Whereas state tourism offices are responsible for attracting large numbers of domestic and international visitors to their respective states, and

Whereas RV parks and campgrounds benefit from increased business that results from the efforts of state tourism offices, and

Whereas, some states have approved or are considering severe budget reductions or elimination of their state tourism offices, now therefore

Be it resolved that arVC urges all state governments not to reduce funding for state tourism promotion and for state tourism offices disproportionately (to a greater extent than the overall reduction in the state budget) and that full consideration always be given to the economic benefits that result from state tourism office programs because the increased tourism business these programs generate means more jobs, more income and more state and local tax revenue, as well as overall stronger state economies.

Approved February 2, 2003

**POLICY ON 2009 FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
REAUTHORIZATION**

SERIES 1030

It is self-evident that the 2009 reauthorization of a fully funded Federal Surface Transportation Program is critical to RV parks and campgrounds whose customers all travel over roads and highways. RV parks and campgrounds also benefit from such programs as scenic byways, transportation enhancements, recreational trails and Federal land roads. Because of its concern over these reauthorization issues, as well as such related issues as better highway access to areas with great tourism appeal and traveler-friendly information systems, arVC is a charter member and strong supporter of the National Travel, Tourism and Recreation Coalition for Surface Transportation.

arVC supports the development of additional funding mechanisms for highway improvements provided the funds are dedicated to those highway improvements and don't unfairly single out or penalize recreation and leisure travel.

(This position also incorporates by reference prior arvc policy positions regarding Billboard Policy (#1002) and Commercialization of Roadside Rest Areas (#1004).)

Approved February 2, 2003

Amended: April 2009

Amended: March 24-25, 2010

POLICY ON GATEWAY COMMUNITIES COOPERATION ACT

SERIES 1031

arVC supports legislation or administrative actions that would strengthen and benefit both gateway communities and the Federal land agencies by mandating greater cooperation and coordination between them and by directing the Federal land agencies to provide more support and assistance to gateway communities. RV parks and campgrounds in and near gateway communities would benefit with their communities from better relations with and greater access to Federal land managers.

arVC urges that Congress and the federal agencies work to craft a gateway cooperation program that would benefit gate communities and federal agencies operating in those areas.

Amended: April 4, 2009

POLICY ON ESTATE TAX MODIFICATION

SERIES 1033

arVC supports legislative action to repeal permanently the estate tax. arVC would also support raising the threshold on which the estate tax is levied to \$15,000,000 and indexing that amount to inflation to assure that small and family-owned business owners are protected from the estate tax.

Approved January 31, 2004

ENCOURAGING MEMBERS TO SEEK PUBLIC OFFICE

SERIES 1034

arVC encourages its members to seek public office. arVC should actively work to identify members currently serving in public office and work with those members to assess and pursue opportunities for election to higher office.

Approved January 31, 2004

arVC POSITION ON WATER & SEWER ASSESSMENTS

SERIES 1035

arVC recognizes that the availability of municipal water and sewer at an RV park or campground is a significant benefit to the owner and guests of the park. arVC encourages jurisdictions to provide these utility services to parks and campgrounds whenever feasible.

arVC recognizes that the extension of water and sewer lines to previously unserved areas is a costly undertaking and the construction cost should be borne by those benefiting from this service. Since cost of construction to bring the utility lines to the property is not related to the size or the seasonal nature of the entity served by the water and sewer system, the cost should be equitably distributed among all who benefit based on the actual cost of construction distributed among the number of entities served.

Further, arVC recognizes that the cost of operating and maintaining water and sewer lines and service is also costly and should be borne by those benefiting from the service in proportion to the level of water or waste usage attributable to each entity served.

Further, based on studies of actual water and sewer usage of recreational vehicles, park models, cabins and tenting areas that are occupied nightly or seasonally and at varying rates of occupancy, and water and sewer usage of restroom buildings, laundries, swimming facilities and other water usage, the water and sewer use of an RV park or campground has been established as substantially less than the equivalent of a residential unit (ERU).

Based on these findings, RV parks and campgrounds should be assessed at actual water and sewage usage of the RV park or campground. The actual usage should be compared to the established assessment unit of use in effect in the jurisdiction.

Approved: April 16, 2005

RESOLUTION ON INCREASING OUTDOOR RECREATION

SERIES 1036

Whereas, there is a documented decline in participation in outdoor recreation among younger generations of Americans, and

Whereas, the continued growth and prosperity of the RV park and campground industry relies on expanding interest in outdoor activities,

Therefore, be it resolved that arvc supports efforts to engage the recreation industries in a program to increase the appreciation and enjoyment of outdoor recreation among younger generations who show a lower level of participation in these activities.

Approved: April 8, 2006

POLICY ON LOCAL TOURISM TAXES

SERIES 1037

arvc opposes taxes specifically targeted on RV parks and campgrounds. In cases where a local taxing authority burdens a RV park or campground, arvc strongly urges the taxing authority to implement marketing or other programs which will have a direct foreseeable benefit to the camping facility generating the tax revenue.

arvc believes that online travel companies should be responsible for payment of local occupancy taxes or payments in lieu of taxes in jurisdictions that impose such taxes and where the taxes are used exclusively to fund tourism and travel promotion.

Approved: April 9, 2006

Amended: March 24-25, 2010

POLICY ON GUEST WORKER PROGRAMS

SERIES 1038

arvc joins the hospitality industry in their efforts to find resolution for immigration reform. arvc supports efforts to find legal avenues for foreign workers to participate in the economy, many of whom provide a vital and stable workforce for the hospitality industry.

Approved: April 9, 2006

POLICY ON SIZE OF 5TH WHEEL TRAILERS AND TRAVEL TRAILERS

SERIES 1039

arvc believes that the 400 sq. ft. size limitation in 5th wheel trailers and the 320 sq. ft. size limitation of travel trailers, both in the setup mode, meets the needs of the campground industry. These parameters allow campgrounds to adequately meet the needs of a majority of consumers and also allow campground

businesses to comply with state and local regulatory codes and standards for the development and operation of campgrounds and RV parks. arVC prefers that the current unit definitions contained in NFPA 1192 and NFPA 1194 remain unchanged.

Approved: April 22, 2007

POLICY ON STATE AND COUNTY CAMPGROUNDS AND PARKS

SERIES 1040

Whereas arVC is concerned about the growing trend towards closing or reducing availability of state park campgrounds;

Whereas arVC feels that quality camping experiences are important wherever people choose to RV or camp, and

Whereas state governments are frequently reducing state budget support for state parks, closing or threatening to close parks, and are increasingly and appropriately relying on fees generated by the parks to sustain them, therefore

arVC encourages state governments and America's State Parks Alliance to assure a level playing field between state park campgrounds and the private sector by assuring that state park camping fees reflect those charged in the private sector.

Approved: March 4, 2010

**arVC POSITION ON SUBMETERING ELECTRICITY IN RV PARKS
& CAMPGROUNDS**

SERIES 1041

arVC supports legislative and regulatory action to enable usage of electric submeters at individual campsites at RV Parks and Campgrounds. The purpose of submetering is to encourage effective conservation and efficient use of electricity by fairly allocating its cost among the ultimate users within a Public Utility master-metered RV Park or Campground.

Utility submetering has become a very important issue because of ever increasing costs associated with utilities and a society more aware of environmental conservation. The park owner would provide and be responsible for the meters including installation, reading and billing the individual submetered guest to allocate the actual usage cost of the utility. The Public Utility provides the master meter to determine usage and appropriate billing for the park owner.

RV Parks and Campgrounds providing camping sites to the public should be able to recover the appropriate amount of energy their customers use. Some campers may use a small amount of electricity and others may use a substantial amount. Submetering will allow RV Park and Campground owners to allocate to guests according to their usage, as opposed to using a flat fee to everyone which discourages conservation of electricity.

arVC recognizes that a park owner is not a Public Utility and does not resell electricity. The park owner should be able to recoup actual costs associated with usage by the individual guest while protecting the guest's right to only be billed for their individual usage at the same rate charged by the Public Utility. The

park owner should also be permitted to charge an administration fee to cover costs of providing the submeter and the labor to allocate the fees, provided the owner does not make a profit from doing so.

Approved: April 10, 2014

arvc POSITION ON PARK MODEL RV'S

SERIES 1042

Park Model RVs are a type of recreation vehicle.

As such, arvc supports federal legislation clearly defining Park Model RV's (PMRV's) as a type of RV and the need to clarify the language of the HUD exemption for RVs from manufactured housing standards.

Further, arvc strongly opposes any state or local attempts to assess property taxes or place zoning restrictions on Park Model RV's properly placed and used in RV parks and campgrounds. PMRV's are intended for use for recreational purposes only. They do not improve property values and they are not designed or intended by their manufacturers to be used as permanent residences. PMRV's are titled, licensed and taxed as personal property and insured as vehicles by the various states. Like all RV's, PMRV's are built in accordance with the national consensus standards for electrical, plumbing, structural, heating, fire and safety standards. Consequently, Park Model RVs should be treated just like any other type of RV by zoning and taxing authorities.

Approved: December 2, 2014

arvc POSITION ON GUEST REMOVAL/EJECTION

SERIES 1043

arvc supports legislative and regulatory actions that establish and clarify that the relationship that exists between the guests of private campgrounds, RV parks or resorts and the owner/operator of these parks is not a landlord-tenant relationship, but rather a transient guest relationship like the relationship a hotel maintains with its guests. As such, a private park's campsites, cabins and RVs should never be considered a domicile or place of residence.

Because a transient guest relationship exists, any person who remains at the park after having been asked to leave by the park owner/operator, either verbally or in writing, for violating the posted written policies of the park shall be immediately guilty of trespass, subject to possible penalties, and able to be summarily removed by a law enforcement officer. A private park owner/operator may eject or remove with the assistance of law enforcement any person who...

- Is not a registered guest or visitor of the campground RV park or resort.
- Remains on the campground beyond an agreed-upon departure time and date.
- Defaults in the payment of any lawfully imposed registration or visitor fee or charge.
- Creates a disturbance that denies other persons their right to quiet enjoyment of the campground necessary for the preservation of public peace, health, and safety.
- Fails to abide by the posted written policies of the park.
- Violates any federal, state, or local law.

Approved: December 2, 2014

POSITION ON PARK MODEL RV's TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT

SERIES 1044

Park Model RV (PMRV) transportation equipment includes the tongue (hitch) assembly, axles, wheels and tires.

Many RV parks/campgrounds remove the transportation equipment, especially the tongue assembly (hitch) for safety reasons to avoid having an object protruding which may cause a trip or fall. RV parks and campgrounds should follow specific regulations/ordinances regarding PMRV transportation equipment issued by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). To ensure the integrity of the classification of a PMRV, if any transportation equipment is removed it should be kept with the unit or stored on the RV parks/campgrounds premises. It is recommended to keep all transportation equipment attached.

It is arvc's position that detached PMRV transportation equipment including tongue (hitch) assembly, axles, wheels and tires shall remain on the RV park/campground either on site or in on site storage for future use unless removal is authorized by the local AHJ.

Approved: April 5, 2016

POSITION ON TINY HOUSES

SERIES 1045

arvc supports a park operator's right to allow a Camping Unit as defined in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1194 - Standard for Recreational Vehicle Parks and Campgrounds to be properly placed on any designated campsite without impediment.

NFPA 1194 Chapter 3 - 3.3.3* Camping Unit. A portable structure, shelter, or vehicle designed and intended for occupancy by persons engaged in RVing or camping and Annex A - A.3.3.3 Camping Unit. The basic units include but are not limited to recreational vehicles, recreational park trailers, camping cabins, housekeeping cabins, tents, teepees, yurts, and other rental accommodations.

Tiny houses, regardless of their brand name, terminology or appearance, that are built to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1192 – Standard for Recreational Vehicles or the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) 119.5 – Standard for Park Model Recreational Vehicles are considered to be recreational vehicles.

Approved: November 10, 2016