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Washington's Jones Elected NARUC President; Honorable, Edgar Take Leadership Slots

BALTIMORE—Commissioner Philip Jones of Washington today officially became the leader of the national association representing State utility regulators across the country.

At the conclusion of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' 124th Annual Meeting here, the more than 130 State commissioners in attendance elected Commissioner Jones as President of the Association. Commissioner Jones succeeds NARUC President David Wright of South Carolina, whose term expired today. Under NARUC bylaws, Association presidents serve one year terms.

NARUC members also elected Commissioner Colette Honorable of Arkansas as First Vice President and Lisa Edgar of Florida as Second Vice President; each will serve one-year terms.

"I am honored to be elected president of this prestigious organization," said President Jones. "I look forward to working with my colleagues across the country as we deal with risks of all forms. From pipeline safety to cyber security to new environmental rules, the challenges before us are dynamic and diverse. We must continue to develop and promote just and reasonable utility policy, but be flexible enough so we can adapt when necessary. My congratulations to First Vice President Honorable and Second Vice President Edgar on their elections. I look forward to working with them, along with my colleagues on the NARUC Executive Committee and the NARUC membership. I also want to thank President Wright for his leadership over the past year. Our team is stronger than ever thanks to his service."

"Congratulations to President Jones, First Vice President Honorable, and Second Vice President Edgar," said Immediate Past President Wright. "Their support, along with that of NARUC Treasurer David Ziegner, and commissioners Doug Nazarian of Maryland and Jack Betkoski of Connecticut, have been essential this past year. We achieved a tremendous amount, working as a team and improving relationships with our colleagues across State and federal bounds. We have demonstrated how effective regulation takes teamwork, and I am humbled by the support I have received from all segments of the utility sector."

"I also want to thank Past President David Coen of Vermont, whose term on the Executive Committee expired today. Past President Coen has served as New England's representative on the committee for eight years. He reached out to consumers and anyone who would listen during his tenure as president. He leaves big shoes to fill, but I am confident Commissioner Betkoski will do well."

As President, Commissioner Jones will provide general oversight of the Association, which represents the State public service commissioners who regulate essential utility services, such as electricity, telecommunications, gas, water, and transportation. In this role, President Jones will serve as the primary voice of the Association, leading NARUC before Congress, the courts, and administrative agencies. He will also be responsible for designating members to the NARUC Board of Directors, committee leadership positions, and other Association appointments as necessary.

President Jones was appointed to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission in early 2005. He is an active NARUC member, serving on the Association's International and Telecommunications committees. He is Co-Chairman of NARUC's Washington Action Committee, and served as Chairman of the National Regulatory Research Institute's Board of Directors. President Jones also co-chairs the NARUC-Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Joint Forum on Reliability and the Environment. While on the Telecommunications Committee, President Jones chaired the committee's Federal Legislation subcommittee and served on the Task Forces of Intercarrier Compensation and Eligible Telecommunications Carriers Designations. He has also been appointed to serve on the Federal Advisory Council of the North American Numbering Council.

Prior to his commission appointment, he served as managing director of Cutter & Buck (Europe), BV in Amsterdam, the Netherlands for five years. Before that he served as senior legislative assistant to former Washington Sen. Daniel J. Evans, and staffed him on energy policy issues and for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee as well as international trade policy.

First Vice President Colette Honorable of Arkansas was appointed to the Arkansas Public Service Commission by Governor Mike Beebe in October 2007, and was designated Chairman in January 2011. Within NARUC, she completed her term as Second Vice President of the Association. She also recently served as the Association's Treasurer. In addition, First Vice President Honorable chaired the NARUC Task Force on Pipeline Safety and is the immediate past chair of the Anybody Can Serve, So Let's Conserve program. Also, Commissioner Honorable is a member of the NARUC Committees on Consumer Affairs and Gas, along with the Subcommittee on Utility Marketplace Access. Before her appointment to the PSC, Commissioner Honorable previously served as Executive Director of the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board. Prior to her gubernatorial appointments, Commissioner Honorable served as Chief of Staff for Attorney General Mike Beebe. She worked in the Attorney General's Office for over five years, serving as an assistant attorney general in the Consumer and Civil Litigation Departments, and as senior assistant attorney general in Medicaid Fraud.

Second Vice President Lisa Edgar of Florida was appointed to the Florida Public Service Commission in January 2005 and was recently reappointed to a third four-year term. She currently serves on the NARUC Board of Directors and is a member of the NARUC Committees on Electricity, Consumer Affairs, and the Task Force on Environmental Regulation and Generation. She also served on the Federal Communications Commission Universal Service Joint Board, working for efficient, accountable, and fiscally responsible use of universal service funds.

NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1889 whose members include the governmental agencies that are engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers in the fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NARUC's member agencies regulate telecommunications, energy, and water utilities. NARUC represents the interests of State public utility commissions before the three branches of the Federal government.

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