

Resolution Honoring North Dakota Commissioner Bruce Hagen

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**WHEREAS**, North Dakota Public Service Commissioner Bruce Hagen, the only "Democratic" commissioner serving in that state – is also currently the longest serving State Commissioner that is still a member of NARUC; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Hagen is a 1953 graduate of the University of North Dakota with a Bachelor of Philosophy Degree, subsequently received his Master of Arts Degree in government and economics from UND in 1955 and completed an additional year of advanced study in government and economics at the University of Wisconsin in 1955-56; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Bruce is a farmer in Benson and Ramsey Counties, a veteran of the Korean Conflict (1950-52), and the proud father of two daughters, Marin and Jennifer; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Hagen was appointed by Governor William Guy in 1961 to fill out an un-expired term and then managed to be re-elected 6 times since, and was a candidate for Congress twice; *and*

**WHEREAS**, During his 39 years of public service, Commissioner Hagen has fought long and hard for all North Dakota citizens' interests in all areas of regulation:

- Protecting farmers' interests in grain elevator bankruptcies,
- Protecting consumers' interests in natural gas cases to insure that utilities do not get a single cent more than necessary to operate properly,
- Leading the Commission revision of a reclamation rule concerning the amount of overburden to be returned after mining and still protect and insure total reclamation of the land while reducing costs for the coal mining industry and

- electric consumers,
- Opposing abandonments and worked for alternate service when rail branchlines have been allowed by the Interstate Commerce Commission,
- Testified many times before Senate and Congressional Committees regarding boxcar supply, rail rates and related transportation problems, energy problems, national strip-mine legislation, and telephone problems to protect North Dakota consumers; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Hagen has also been an invaluable resource to NARUC service the Associations interests in many ways including *current* service on the following:

- NARUC's Board of Directors
- NARUC's Committee on Communications
- NARUC's Washington Action Committee (8 years)
- NARUC's Policy Subcommittee on International Communications (4 years)
- Executive Committee of NARUC affiliate - Mid-America Regulatory Commissioners (MARC) (10 years)
- Active Member of NARUC affiliate – MARC (39+years); *and*

**WHEREAS**, in addition to his current NARUC committees, Bruce also served NARUC in the past as:

- NARUC President (1988)
- A member of the Federal Communications Commission Uniform System of Accounts Joint Board (Docket No. 86-297) (1986 – 1988)
- A member of Federal Communications Commission Alaskan Joint Board (Docket No. 83-1376), (1985 – 1995)
- Chairman, Committee on Communications (1986 – 1987)
- NARUC Committee on Administration and Personnel (1972-72).
- NARUC Ad Hoc Committee on U.S.-Canada Energy Supply (1969-1973); *and*

**WHEREAS**, in his spare time, Bruce currently acts as:

- Advisor for The KMB Video Journal, representing the public side of issues before the nation (1988 – Present)
- Member Lignite Research Council for the State of

- North Dakota, appointed by Governor Sinner (1987 – Present)
- Member Board of Directors, North Dakota Commission on the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, appointed by Governor Sinner (1985 – Present); *and*

**WHEREAS**, in the past Bruce has also been a member of the:

- Marketing Development Subcommittee of Connecting North Dakota, a committee appointed by Governor Sinner to consider and make recommendations on the state's communications infrastructure to further economic development on all levels (1992)
- Steering Committee on Transportation of the North Dakota Economic Development Roundtable
- Editorial Advisory Board of the Electricity Journal
- National Governors' Association Task Force on Electric Utility Transmission
- (Chairman) North Dakota United Nations Day, appointed by Governor Sinner (1986 & 1987)
- (Chairman) State Intermodal Transportation Team (SITT), appointed by Governor Sinner (1985 – 93)
- (First Chairman) North Dakota Commission on the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, appointed by Governor Sinner (1985)
- ( Vice-Chairman) Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota.
- Advisory Council, State Regulatory Communications Study Project conducted by the Annenberg School of Communications, which is a graduate school of the University of Pennsylvania (1983)
- Ad-Hoc Coalition on International Electric Power Trade.
- Western Governors' Association Economic Research Center Task Force
- Governor's Economic Development Council, appointed by Governor Link (1980)
- (Chairman) North Dakota State Personnel Board (1979 – 81)
- ( Chairman) State Intermodal Transportation Team, appointed by Governor Link (1977 – 80)
- Regional Energy Advisory Board of the U.S. Department of Energy (1979)
- North Dakota contact for the President's Regulatory Council, appointed by Governor Arthur Link (1979)
- Executive member, Reclamation of Strip-mined Lands Task Force of the Fort Union Regional Task Force, appointed by Governor Arthur Link. (1973 – 80)
- (Chairman) Governor's Personnel Appeal Board (1974).

- Commission on Commercial Air Transportation, appointed by Governor Link (1972)
- Midwestern Governors' Committee on Midwest Energy Requirements and Environmental Protection (Task Force), appointed by Governor Guy and reappointed by Governor Link (1972 – 73).
- (Vice-Chairman) Mid-America Governors' Transportation Council
- (President) Midwest Public Service Commissioners Association. (1969 – 70).
- Chairman, Governor William L. Guy's committee to end the duplicate inspection of North Dakota grain by Minnesota (1963 – 68)
- ( General Chairman) North Dakota Transportation Planning Committee, which assembled a comprehensive transportation plan for North Dakota (1970s); *and*

**WHEREAS**, Bruce, a Non-Partisan Leaguer, is a patient man, as exemplified by his ability to work closely with (since 1981) the Republican Raconteur Leo "am I going too fast for you" Reinbold, who, when asked about what he thought of Bruce's retirement, had these thoughtful parting words: "Bruce Who?" *and*

**WHEREAS**, upon being shown a picture and a draft of this resolution, Leo remembered Bruce as "that quiet guy that was always over at the Governor's house" and pointed out that "You know, Bruce is serving his 40<sup>th</sup> year on the Commission. There are those in North Dakota who believe that he could not find other work," *and*

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner Hagen has been a constant in the ever changing face of the NARUC Communications Committee and represents all the best in public service and has set an ethical and intellectual standard to which we all should aspire, *now therefore, be it*

**RESOLVED**, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), assembled in the November 2000

112<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in San Diego, California extend -  
Congratulations to Commissioner Hagen upon his completion  
of over 39 years of dedicated and productive service to the  
citizens of North Dakota and the United States of America,  
Heartfelt thanks for his multiple and willing contributions to the  
success of the NARUC organization through service at every  
level,  
Appreciation for his candor, guidance, and good humor in  
tackling the many formidable political and policy problems that  
have arisen during his service, and  
Warmest wishes for every continued success in his new  
endeavors.

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Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications  
Recommended by the Board of Directors.  
Accepted in Convention November 15, 2000.