

Resolution Honoring Harold D. Williams

WHEREAS, The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Subcommittee on Utility Marketplace Access is responsible for furthering awareness and education regarding opportunities for diverse suppliers to participate in utilities' procurement programs, and encourages utilities to review and amend, as applicable, their procurement strategies to ensure that diverse suppliers are included; *and*

WHEREAS, The panel was founded initially in September 1994 as a Department of Energy (DOE), Natural Gas Market Access Program for Small and Disadvantaged Business and Women and Minority-Owned Business Enterprises, also known as the Minority Business Roundtable, under the direction of former Secretary of Energy, Hazel O'Leary with founding parties including Washington Gas, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, under the leadership of then Harold D. Williams, Director of Procurement Opportunity Programs, and several minority and woman owned natural gas brokers to develop opportunities for small diversity energy business in the evolving energy industry and to increase the number of minorities in the natural gas sector; *and*

WHEREAS, In July 1996, the Natural Gas Market Access Program for Small and Disadvantaged Business and Women and Minority-Owned Business Enterprises workgroup sponsored a one day seminar at DOE to identify and address issues preventing greater WMBE participation in the evolving natural gas industry. At a reception following the Workshop, Secretary O'Leary announced the creation of a DOE "Advisory Committee" to help draft an Outreach Strategy for assisting WMBE's and the strategy was implemented in January 1997; and

WHEREAS, In 2001, NARUC formed the Energy Marketplace Access Partnership consisting of representatives from the DOE, State commissions, Utilities and DBE's.

WHEREAS, the first meeting of the Energy Partnership was held on July 15, 2001, and the Energy Partnership Board comprised 21 national leaders, including state utility commissioners, DOE officials, industry executives including Harold Williams, small energy business entrepreneurs, and other individuals from the public and private sectors; and;

WHEREAS, the Energy Partnerships goals were to:

- "To increase market efficiency, reliability of supply, and to demonstrate the economic value brought to the energy marketplace by WMBE companies;
- To increase the knowledge of the significance of state commission regulatory oversight with utility energy procurement and WMBE opportunities; and to "Level the Playing Field" for DBEs;
- Facilitating partnerships between the WMBE's and the LDC's
- Encourage Competition for Utility Contracts;
- Lower Utility Costs to Consumers; *and*

WHEREAS, In 2004, at the insistence of Harold Williams, who was at the time appointed Chairman, EMAP was broadened to encompass all DBE suppliers and all utilities -- Gas, Telecom, Electricity and Water -- and, the name was also changed to Utility Market Access Partnership or UMAP; *and*

WHEREAS, After petition and upon recommendation of representatives of UMAP, NARUC changes UMAP from a NARUC Ad Hoc Committee to a more permanent Subcommittee of the NARUC Executive Board; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Harold D. Williams, a North Carolina native and Baltimore resident for most of his life, was appointed on November 2010 by NARUC President David Coen of to a three year term as the first ever Chairman of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Subcommittee on Utility Marketplace Access; *and*

WHEREAS, After serving in the Air Force, Commissioner Williams began his long career as a Police Officer for Baltimore City, spent some time in Marketing and Sales, as an Amtrak Police Officer, as a buyer for Amtrak then he pursued a degree in Management Science and graduated Magna Cum Laude from Coppin State University. While working as a Buyer at Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE), he later attended the Johns Hopkins University where he earned his Masters Degree in Administrative Science, was appointed to the Maryland Public Service Commission in October 2002; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Williams distinguished himself by his hard work and dedication, at BGE and was selected to become BGE's Director Procurement Opportunity Program where he developed the utility's first minority business program; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Williams served as Procurement Opportunity Director for over 10 years, and compiled a number of achievements while there, including:

- Creating the National Minority Business Supplier Development Program, which is a nationwide organization throughout the utility industry;
- Becoming recognized as one of the nation's leading authorities and champions of minority and business enterprises;
- Shaping the management structure and performance accountability systems for BGE's minority program;
- Developed new markets, forged links with people, organizations, and communities for the purpose of economic growth and development of minority and women owned business across the nation; *and*

WHEREAS, as Chairman of UMA, Commissioner Williams has led and advocated for the adoption of several important NARUC Resolutions including:

- *Resolution Supporting Supplier Diversity in Financial Services within Investor-Owned Utilities* - adopted July 20, 2011 - The Resolution supports enhanced efforts to support supplier diversity within investor-owned utilities;
- *Resolution Encouraging Inclusion of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) in the Development of Long-Term Strategic Partnerships to Address Pending Retirements of Utility Professionals* - February 8, 2012 – The Resolution supports enhanced efforts to include HBCUs within the development of long-term utility workforce plans to cultivate new talented and diverse professionals for the utility industry including utility regulatory agencies;
- *Resolution Encouraging Regulatory Utility Commissions to Become Informed on Utility Workforce Preparedness Strategies* - adopted July 25, 2012 - The Resolution supports open dockets at all regulatory utility Commissions for the purpose of reviewing and where necessary developing strategic workforce preparedness strategies;
- *Resolution Encouraging Regulatory Commissions to Participate in the Supplier Diversity Toolkit Project* – November, 2013 – The Resolution supports the establishment of an online portal connected to NARUC’s website, that provides supplier diversity best practices, and annual aggregated data on utility spend with WMBDE firms in each state; *and*

WHEREAS, It is beyond doubt that Chairman Emeritus Williams’ patience, temperament and commitment to NARUC and UMA in its several forms can be traced, to some small degree, to his passionate love of aquatic life, as demonstrated by his tireless stewardship over hundreds of African and South American cichlids, all of which occupy many hundreds of gallons of space across his home; *and*

WHEREAS, As a long-time champion of causes intended to expand awareness and build new platforms for Women, Minority, and Service Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises (WMDBE) among regulated utility providers, the members of the UMA Commission salute Chairman Williams for his commitment, leadership and grace in the face of the unique challenge of serving as UMA’s first Chairman. He has served NARUC and UMA with vigor, distinction and honor; *now, therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at their 2014 Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, D.C., convened at its Winter Committee Meetings in Washington, D.C., extends its sincere thanks and gratitude to Commissioner Harold D. Williams for his tenure as the first Chair of UMA, for his years of dedicated public service and leadership, and that he enjoy great success in his remaining time as a member of MDPSC, NARUC and EPRI.

*Sponsored by the Utility Marketplace Access Subcommittee
Adopted by the Board of Directors February 12, 2014*