

**Remarks by Eric Callisto
Co Vice Chair, Committee on International Relations
Commissioner, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin**

Terry Barnich Award Ceremony

February 9, 2014

It is my pleasure to share with you more information on the purpose of the Annual Award for Promoting International Cooperation among Utility Regulators and Development of Professional Regulation, which is awarded each year by NARUC's Committee on International Relations.

This award acknowledges important contributions made by an outstanding individual from among the NARUC commissioners and staff who has dedicated his or her time, energy and expertise to furthering regulatory best practices in a global environment.

This award, established in 2011, honors former Chairman of the Illinois Commerce Commission (1989 to 1992) Terrence "Terry" Barnich, who was killed on Memorial Day, May 25th, 2009, while working as the Deputy Director of the State Department office overseeing U.S. reconstruction projects in Iraq. He was a dedicated public servant and an active NARUC member.

The Terry Barnich Award is an important tool both for promoting and recognizing work of NARUC membership on international regulatory issues and for improving the understanding of good policy-making and regulatory practices. It recognizes regulators who go the extra step, who take personal responsibility for providing information in a peer to peer manner that is useful to our foreign counterparts.

Each year we honor one of our own members who has given their time and energy not just during that particular year, but also who has a history of involvement in NARUC's international activities.

During the inaugural award in 2011, we honored former Chairman Kevin Gunn of the Missouri Public Service Commission. Under Kevin's leadership and through the NARUC/USAID Cooperative Agreement, the Missouri commission provided an in-kind give to their regulatory partners in Moldova to advance that country's electronic filing system.

In 2012, the Committee on International Relations honored Commissioner David Boyd of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for his dedication and leadership on renewable energy issues with the NARUC/USAID Black Sea Regulatory Initiative, which partners six countries with the Organization of MISO States.

The first two recipients of this award were commissioners whose activities embody the global spirit of exchange that is so crucial to NARUC's successful international partnerships. But of course we know that that spirit runs just as deep in the talented pool of state staff who engage in these activities along with commissioners. Indeed, I'm not telling any secrets when I observe that commission staff – along with their NARUC staff colleagues – are the backbone of the NARUC international partnerships. Their enthusiasm, their skill, and their willingness and ability to apply themselves to these activities makes all the difference.

To this end, we are delighted to bestow this award for the first time on a commission staff member. Kim Wissman is Director of the Energy and Environment Department at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. Kim has been active in NARUC and other international projects since the 1990s and truly embodies the spirit of Terry Barnich, and the principles for which this award was created. It is an honor and a pleasure to name Kim Wissman the recipient of the 2013 Terry Barnich Award.