



Organization of MISO States

100 Court Avenue, Suite 315  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Phone: 515-243-0742  
Fax: 515-243-0746  
[www.misostates.org](http://www.misostates.org)

Remarks by William H. Smith, Jr.  
Executive Director, Organization of MISO States

Recipient for the 2014  
Annual Award for Promoting International Cooperation among Utility  
Regulators and Development of Professional Regulation  
(Terry Barnich) Award

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It is a particular honor to receive this distinguished award the first time it has been given to two people. First, it recognizes that NARUC's international work is always a team effort. No individual can provide the range of knowledge and skills needed to accomplish a program of the diversity and effectiveness of the NARUC international program. It's a particular honor to share the award with Denise Parrish, a colleague for whom I have the highest respect. I've had the opportunity to follow Denise on several programs and she is always a hard act to follow.

Participation in international work gives us a chance to advance our national goals. Especially in the region of Europe and Eurasia, this is the unfinished work of my generation – we spent much of our our lives under the shadow of the Cold War, but we have not yet achieved the full benefits of the "Peace" that should follow its end. This work is what I can do to help achieve those benefits. USAID provides the financial horsepower for the program as well as its intellectual inspiration. The Black Sea Initiative has given us a chance to have continuing contact with regional regulators, and that makes it a distinctive part of our international assistance, energy diplomacy and broader foreign policy efforts.

In the Black Sea Regulatory Initiative, we've worked on regional cooperation, privatization and competitive forces in energy systems, energy efficiency, and clean energy. In a larger view, the USAID and NARUC efforts are designed to promote more efficient economies across

the world, and that should translate into better lives for many people and ultimately more equitable sharing of the world energy resources.

For me personally, NARUC's international outreach has given me wonderful personal and professional opportunities and friendships with remarkable colleagues. I'm confident that we are helping our colleagues learn from US experience and each other's experiences so they can more effectively serve their countries. At the same time, this work helps us improve our own understanding of the regulatory process and our performance and become better regulators.

The team I mentioned before includes a lot of people who make this work possible and effective: the International Relations Committee, its Chair and Vice-Chairs; David Boyd for his kind endorsement of my contributions; and NARUC's incomparable International staff, Erin, Martina, Umida, Jargalan, Bevan, and Chuck Gray and Andre for signing the checks.

None of this could occur without USAID's Energy Regulatory & Security Program in Europe and Eurasia, of which the Black Sea regulatory initiative has been a prominent part, and Steve Burns, Chief of the Europe & Eurasia Bureau, for his leadership of the Program.

I am also grateful to OMS for allowing me the flexibility and time, and especially Julie Mitchell and Colleen Dougherty who keep the office running while I am away. Most importantly, I thank Jeanie and my family for their help in making this work possible.