

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

For Immediate Release: **February 5, 2012**

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Missouri's Gunn Wins Inaugural Terry Barnich Award

WASHINGTON—Missouri Public Service Commission Chair Kevin Gunn is the inaugural winner of a new award presented by his colleagues in honor of former Illinois Commerce Commission Chair Terry Barnich, a leader in building international relationships across the world.

The new Award Promoting International Cooperation Among Utility Regulators and Development of Professional Regulation in Honor of Terry Barnich (“Terry Barnich Award”) will be presented each year by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners’ Committee on International Relations.

The award is named in tribute to Terry Barnich, who was killed in Fallujah, Iraq, on Memorial Day in 2009 while working as the Deputy Director of the State Department office overseeing U.S. reconstruction projects in Iraq. Mr. Barnich served as Chair of the Illinois Commerce Commission from 1989-1992, and he was an active member of NARUC’s Committee on Telecommunications. He also provided expert testimony on a wide range of regulatory issues as well as authored numerous articles concerning emerging competitive markets.

In 2007, Mr. Barnich volunteered to serve our country in Iraq providing needed expertise in energy. He served as Deputy Director and counsel to the electricity section of the State Department’s Iraq Transition Assistance Office and as legal advisor to the Iraqi Minister of Electricity and later became Deputy Director, overseeing all U.S. State Department reconstruction programs. In these roles, he helped develop the framework to attract future private investment to Iraq. He also served as liaison to policymakers at the U.S. embassy in Iraq and the Iraqi embassy in Washington. In this role, Mr. Barnich was a top consultant when the President, Vice-President, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, National Security Advisor and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs visited Iraq.

To honor Mr. Barnich’s legacy, NARUC’s Committee on International Relations developed an annual award to recognize the ongoing commitment of NARUC members to furthering regulatory best practices around the globe. The winners will be nominated by any Association member and selected by the IRC.

The first recipient of the Terry Barnich Award is Missouri Public Service Commission Chair Kevin Gunn. Chairman Gunn is being honored because of his work in a NARUC-facilitated partnership between the Missouri PSC and the Moldovan National Agency for Energy Regulation. The partnership is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development through its cooperative agreement with NARUC.

In particular, under Chairman Gunn’s leadership and as part of the NARUC-USAID partnership, the Missouri PSC gave the Moldovan agency full access and rights to its Electronic Filing and Information System (EFIS), an in-kind contribution valued at \$2.4 million. With this system, the National Agency for Energy Regulation dramatically increased their productivity and better tracks utilities’ filings and provide timely responses to inquiries and petitions.

Victor Parlicov, General Director of the Moldovan regulator, said the system “simplifies the work

within the Agency, frees time for our specialists to deal with real professional issues instead of running paperwork and speeds-up decision-making.”

“I am honored to present this award in honor of Terry Barnich to Chairman Gunn,” said NARUC International Relations Committee Chair David Armstrong of Kentucky. “Terry exemplified the best in public service. He committed his life to the causes he held dear, and proved that it is possible to make a positive difference in the world. Chairman Gunn is a deserving recipient, as his service is making energy regulation work better not only in

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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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