

Resolution Honoring Paul Roberti of Rhode Island

WHEREAS, Paul Roberti was appointed by Rhode Island Governor Carcieri as a Commissioner for the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission (RIPUC) in May 2009, and continued to serve as a Commissioner for RIPUC under Governor Raimondo until June 2016; *and*

WHEREAS, Paul Roberti served for 17 years as Special Assistant Attorney General in the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, most recently as Assistant Attorney General and Chief of the Regulatory Unit. He was involved in hundreds of proceedings involving public utility and energy matters before RIPUC, the Rhode Island Energy Facilities Siting Board, the Rhode Island Supreme Court and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); *and*

WHEREAS, Paul Roberti, while in the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, zealously represented the interests of Rhode Island ratepayers and residents. Mr. Roberti played a key role in litigation around the siting of a proposed liquefied natural gas terminal in Providence. He spearheaded the burial of high-voltage transmission lines along the Providence and East Providence waterfronts to enhance economic development opportunities and preserve parklands. Mr. Roberti saved an estimated \$250 million for Rhode Island's electric ratepayers by securing concessions in a FERC-approved settlement agreement that authorized implementation of the Forward Capacity Market in New England. He played a pivotal role in a rate settlement associated with National Grid's consolidation of Rhode Island's largest electric distribution companies, an agreement that yielded a \$13 million rate reduction, a five-year rate freeze and the State's acquisition of 260 acres of pristine land on Narragansett Bay. He gained extensive appellate experience, having presented oral arguments in numerous cases before the Rhode Island Supreme Court, the federal district courts, and the U.S. Court of Appeals; *and*

WHEREAS, Paul Roberti was a law clerk to the Honorable Donald F. Shea of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, and spent time in private practice before being appointed a Special Assistant Attorney General; *and*

WHEREAS, Paul Roberti received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry from the College of the Holy Cross and a Juris Doctor degree from Suffolk University Law School, graduating *cum Laude* and was a member and editor of the *Transnational Law Journal*, and is a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association; *and*

WHEREAS, Paul Roberti resides in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, with his beloved wife and three children; *and*

WHEREAS, Paul Roberti served the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety with dynamic leadership and integrity and as Vice Chairman of NARUC's Committee on Gas, and was also a member of NARUC's Subcommittee on Utility Marketplace Access. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of NARUC and the National Regulatory Research Institute; *and*

WHEREAS, During his tenure as Chairman, NARUC's Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety advocated for ways to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to improve natural gas pipeline

safety and find innovative ways to ensure regulations that provide meaningful advancements in pipeline safety, and under his leadership the Subcommittee gained in stature, increased membership and exerted valuable influence over understanding pipeline safety technical issues; *and*

WHEREAS, As Chairman, he became one of the country's experts on pipeline safety regulatory policy, and was called upon to participate in countless national conversations on these issues to provide the regulatory perspective; and

WHEREAS, As Chairman, Paul Roberti was noted for his supportive leadership and warm rapport with his Committee colleagues, NARUC members and staff, and federal agency leaders from the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, and the Department of Energy, among others; *and*

WHEREAS, Paul Roberti was appointed by U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz to the Department of Energy's Electricity Advisory Committee (EAC), where he served on the EAC's Subcommittee on Storage. He also served as Chairman of the Center for Public Utilities' Advisory Council at New Mexico State University; *and*

WHEREAS, Paul Roberti was the recipient of the prestigious 2015 Terry Barnich Award for Promoting International Cooperation Among Utility Regulators and Development of Professional Regulation at a special ceremony on Sunday, February 14, 2015 during NARUC's 2015 Winter Committee Meetings. The Terry Barnich Award is the highest honor bestowed by the NARUC Committee on International Relations to a recipient who has dedicated his/her time, energy and expertise to promote best practices in the international regulatory arena; *and*

WHEREAS, Paul Roberti was known for providing assistance to NARUC International Committee in innovative ways that helped grow new projects and tools for providing assistance to foreign partners, epitomizing the qualities needed to promote NARUC's International Relations Program. He assisted NARUC international staff with scoping missions in 2015 to Jamaica and India. These scoping trips were conducted at the request of United States Agency for International Development and were designed to identify key challenges for partners and draft a scope of work for NARUC's engagement in these countries. Paul Roberti served as a technical resource and helped build relationships from a peer-to-peer perspective. His contributions and insights during these crucial trips propelled NARUC's projects forward and allowed NARUC International Relations Program to craft highly responsive partnerships; *and*

WHEREAS, Paul Roberti also supported the Mexico Electricity Regulatory Partnership in a "remote Peer Review" in November 2015 on the General Terms & Conditions Regulating the Retail Electricity Supply regulation. This was the first such virtual, line-by-line peer review of documents for foreign partner regulators conducted by NARUC and it allowed NARUC to be responsive to a request for assistance from the Mexican regulator in a timely manner and at a low cost; *and*

WHEREAS, Paul Roberti participated in the World Forum on Energy Regulation in Istanbul, Turkey, to support NARUC's overall efforts to foster dialogue on regulatory issues with partners across the world. Internationally, he also represented NARUC in a number of USAID-sponsored

regulatory partnerships to assist the development of regulatory institutions and development of renewable energy and market-based policies in Moldova and Georgia, and served as an instructor at the Energy Regulators Regional Association's Renewable Electricity Regulation Training Course held in Budapest, Hungary; *and*

WHEREAS, Paul Roberti was appreciated for his zealous passion, hard work ethic, and his infectious smile and graciousness no matter how complicated and contentious the issue; moreover, Paul Roberti's clear dedication to public service beyond the borders of the U.S. was invaluable to the international community of energy regulators; *and*

WHEREAS, Paul Roberti will be greatly missed by the Committee on Gas, its Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety and its Staff Subcommittee, as well as the Committee on International Relations and its Staff Subcommittee, and his NARUC colleagues; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2016 Summer Meetings in Nashville, Tennessee, extends and expresses its deepest and sincere appreciation and gratitude to Paul Roberti by recognizing his outstanding public service and conveys to him its best wishes in all of his future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Committee on Gas

And Sponsored by the Committee on International Relations

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on July 27, 2016