

Resolution Honoring Thom Pearce

WHEREAS, From 1985 to 2016 Thomas Pearce was a Senior Utility Specialist for the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), where he served as the PUCO's policy expert on issues related to critical infrastructure protection, cybersecurity, energy assurance, interdependencies, reliability, and planning; *and*

WHEREAS, From 2005 until 2016, Thom Pearce chaired the NARUC Staff Committee on Critical Infrastructure Protection for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC); *and*

WHEREAS, As Staff Subcommittee on Critical Infrastructure Chair, Thom Pearce singlehandedly built a community of regulatory expertise in areas like resilience, cyber preparedness, “black sky day” energy assurance, and plain old reliability by tirelessly travelling, presenting, organizing, educating, cajoling, prodding, and encouraging State regulators to fulfill their roles as protectors of critical infrastructure; *and*

WHEREAS, Thom Pearce also served the Chair and members of the NARUC Gas Committee for three years from July 2001 through December 2004 and led many of the projects completed for the NARUC Committee on Gas, the NARUC-U.S. Department of Energy Liquefied Natural Gas partnership, and the NARUC Natural Gas Task Force; *and*

WHEREAS, Rumors abound that he has a four-car garage that holds one car and his bow tie collection, but only barely; *and*

WHEREAS, Thom Pearce has ably represented the interests of NARUC and the PUCO through his participation in the North American Energy Standards Board as a member of its Advisory Council, and as an officer for his regional InfraGard chapter, and as a State representative on National Infrastructure Protection Sector Partnership’s Government Coordinating Council for Energy; *and*

WHEREAS, Thom Pearce’s contributions to NARUC Research Lab publications on cybersecurity, resilience, and critical infrastructure protection ensured lasting quality in the Association’s understanding of these topics, and his expert review and contributions to publications like the Department of Homeland Security’s National Infrastructure Protection Plan and National Response Plan proved invaluable in their incorporation of best practices on cost recovery, reliability assurance, and information sharing; *and*

WHEREAS, Thom Pearce has educated and mentored hundreds of regulators as a valued member of the NARUC Advisory Board and program faculty of the Institute of Public Utilities at Michigan State University and as a Distinguished Speaker for the Wisconsin Public Utilities Institute’s Energy Basics Course; *and*

WHEREAS, Thom Pearce recognized the importance of and promoted the need for continued educational opportunities for commissioners and staff by serving on the Staff Subcommittee on Education and Research; *and*

WHEREAS, Thom Pearce has been a tireless champion of NARUC's international programs and has volunteered his time and expertise both abroad and in Ohio to foster peer-to-peer relationships and advance regulation around the globe; *and*

WHEREAS, Thom Pearce has earned the respect of his NARUC colleagues and international peers through his participation as an instructor in the NARUC-sponsored U.S. Agency for International Development programs in regulatory assistance to governments and regulators across Eastern Europe, the Middle East, West Africa, and the Americas; *and*

WHEREAS, Through his dedicated engagements with international regulators, Thom showed he could problem solve regulatory challenges in myriad developing countries and difficult geopolitical contexts, all the while building friendships and taking part in adventures; *and*

WHEREAS, Thom Pearce has been repeatedly recognized for the quality of his work at the PUCO, being instrumental in that Commission's activities on electric power, gas infrastructure, and infrastructure protection, and serving as an Emergency Responder during State-declared emergencies; *and*

WHEREAS, Thom Pearce holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Petroleum Engineering from Marietta College and a Juris Doctor degree from Capital University Law School; *and*

WHEREAS, Thom Pearce has constantly demonstrated in his daily life the characteristics of a true gentleman, a tirelessly considerate mentor, a dedicated father and husband, and a true friend to his State and NARUC peers; *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, and the NARUC Committee and Staff Subcommittee on Critical Infrastructure, and the NARUC Committee on Gas and its Staff Subcommittee on Gas, extend their sincerest appreciation to Thom Pearce for his years of service in advancing the public good, and wish him good fortune, happiness, and prosperity in all his future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Committees on Critical Infrastructure

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