

Resolution Honoring James M. Van Nostrand

Whereas James M. Van Nostrand served on the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities as Chair from May 2023 through January 2025;

Whereas Chair Emeritus Van Nostrand brought extensive expertise in energy law and environmental policy to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, having previously served as Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Energy and Sustainable Development at West Virginia University College of Law, where he was a leading scholar on the energy transition, utility regulation, and climate policy;

Whereas Chair Van Nostrand led the Department through a critical period of energy transition in Massachusetts, overseeing the implementation of landmark climate legislation, including the 2024 Act Promoting a Clean Energy Grid, Advancing Equity and Protecting Ratepayers, which reformed energy infrastructure siting, established the Division of Public Participation, and created the Intervenor Support Program;

Whereas under Chair Van Nostrand's leadership, the Department approved transformative Electric Sector Modernization Plans designed to enhance grid reliability and resilience while supporting the rapid deployment of renewable energy, energy storage, and electrification technologies essential to Massachusetts' climate goals;

Whereas Chair Van Nostrand championed energy affordability and equity throughout his tenure, advancing critical proceedings on energy burden reduction, establishing enhanced language access and public participation plans, and expanding the Department's outreach to environmental justice communities across the Commonwealth;

Whereas Chair Van Nostrand actively participated in NARUC's work, including serving on the Energy Resources and Environment Committee and the Natural Gas Planning Task Force;

Whereas Chair Van Nostrand brought a collaborative and thoughtful approach to regulatory decision-making, fostering productive relationships with utilities, stakeholders, state agencies, and fellow commissioners while maintaining rigorous oversight and commitment to the public interest;

Whereas Chair Van Nostrand prioritized nurturing a positive workplace culture at the Department, supporting staff development, mentoring countless colleagues, and improving morale while guiding the organization through significant structural changes and expansion of its mission;

Whereas Chair Van Nostrand is a dedicated husband and father, proud Iowan, author, lover of dive bars and trivia nights, frequent viewer of Yankee playoff losses, and undercover fan of the evil empire behind enemy lines;

Whereas Chair Van Nostrand earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa, a Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa College of Law, and a Master of Laws in Environmental Law from the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University; *and*

Whereas Chair Van Nostrand will be remembered at the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, NARUC, and throughout the energy regulatory community for his scholarly approach to complex regulatory challenges, his unwavering commitment to climate action and environmental justice, his dedication to public service, and his collegial and thoughtful leadership style; *now therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2026 Winter Policy Summit in Washington, D.C., congratulates Commissioner Emeritus James M. Van Nostrand on his tenure at the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, thanks him for his leadership and friendship, and expresses its best wishes for his future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on February 11, 2026.