

Tom Stanton Resolution for Mary Kilmarx Award

Whereas Tom Stanton is Principal Researcher, Energy and Environment, at the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI), a critical arm of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), where he has served since fall 2010, after a 32-year career in Michigan state government;

Whereas Tom specializes in policy research for renewable energy, energy efficiency, smart grid, and global climate change;

Whereas Tom is a lifelong resident of Michigan, where he worked in state government in the fields of public utility regulation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy – including 10 years at the State Energy Office and over 22 years at the Michigan Public Service Commission (PSC). For several of those years, he worked on administration of Michigan’s solar and renewable energy tax credits program and later served as manager of the renewable energy section of the Michigan PSC;

Whereas Tom earned a B.A. in Communications and an M.A. in Journalism, both from Michigan State University, as well as an M.S. in Public Administration from Western Michigan University;

Whereas Tom has been an energetic, engaging resource and a constant, unwavering support system for NARUC and especially for its Committees and Staff Subcommittees on Energy Resources and the Environment, Electricity, and Rate Design, where he is known for his creative approach to finding unique and professional relevant off-site tours and restaurant options during the three meetings hosted by NARUC each year;

Whereas Tom has been a real visionary in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and distributed energy resources, including net metering and has been appointed to the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Committee on The Role of Net Metering in the Evolving Electricity System;

Whereas Tom never turned down requests from fellow researchers for his help, providing information, reviewing draft reports, and suggesting edits you didn't even know you wanted, and he held his own research to the same standards by asking external experts for their recommendations to make his research stronger;

Whereas Tom has never met an environmental topic that he was afraid to research and report on if he thought it would benefit Commissioners and Staff. He is an encyclopedia of who’s who of which states are implementing what programs and where new legislation is being passed;

Whereas, whether policymakers were considering an interconnection planning model or a report about pollution reductions from energy efficiency, Tom was always relentless about advocating for strong science and analysis to drive policy, and not the other way around;

Whereas Tom’s quick wit and sense of humor enhance his ability to research regulatory topics and identify and secure the participation of outstanding speakers for NARUC’s many subject-matter panels. He never shies away from helping to figure out how to pull off successful panels meeting after meeting;

Whereas, of late, Tom is also becoming known for his generous contributions to NARUC attendees' understanding and enjoyment of the pleasures of chocolate, especially that having local or regional features associated with the various NARUC meeting venues around the country;

Whereas Tom is a tennis aficionado and pro tennis' loss is the regulatory world's gain;

Whereas Tom is an avid home improvement expert, his historic house being in a constant state of well thought out improvements;

Whereas Tom has recently urged his friends to reserve July 9 for his 70th Birthday Party at the Lansing Lugnuts Home Baseball Game (7 p.m. game time), with fireworks after. Tom says if July 9 does not work for you, but you want to come visit any other time in 2022, just say when and he will happily celebrate with you whenever you say! As a true Michigander, Tom notes that flights to his beloved state go to Detroit (DTW), Lansing (LAN), or Grand Rapids (GRR). He offers to help with Michigan fun travel itineraries, too, for lots of fun stops in any direction from Lansing, including the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, which includes the Thomas Edison workshop from Menlo Park, New Jersey; *and*

Whereas Tom was a personal friend of Mary Kilmarx during her NARUC years and is a sterling example of the kinds of public service that the Award in her honor is intended to champion; *now therefore be it*

Resolved that the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners, convened at its Winter Policy Summit in Washington, DC, extends gratitude to Tom Stanton for his leadership and wisdom at NRRI, and for his efforts to continually champion strong environmental stewardship, renewable energy development, innovation in rate design and advancing the integration of distributed energy resources into the electric grid, and consideration of the need for equity and fairness for low- and middle-income ratepayers in accessing clean and efficient energy services. NARUC expresses its best wishes for his continued service to its committees and subcommittees and in his future endeavors.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on February , 2022*