



For Immediate Release CONTACT: NARUC Communications, <u>communications@naruc.org</u>

## NARUC and State Commissioners Promote EPA's "Fix a Leak Week" March 18-24, 2024

**WASHINGTON** (March 18, 2024) — As part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ongoing **We're for Water** campaign for Fix a Leak Week, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and state utility regulators encourage water utility customers to help put a stop to the nearly 1 trillion gallons of water wasted from household leaks each year. Furthermore, water utilities are encouraged to take this opportunity to reach out to their customers about water leaks and how they can be addressed.

In July 2008, NARUC joined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense initiative. The focus of the program is to promote water efficiency and conservation through joint activities with those who participate in the effort.

Sponsored by EPA's WaterSense<sup>®</sup> program, Fix a Leak Week is March 18-24, 2024. In support of **We're for Water**, NARUC is promoting finding and fixing residential leaks across the nation.

"Leaks can account for nearly 10,000 gallons of water in an average home every year — the amount of water it takes to wash over 300 loads of laundry," said North Carolina Commissioner Jeff Hughes, who chairs NARUC's Committee on Water. "As a WaterSense partner, we are encouraging consumers to find and fix leaks to save water in their communities."

To help save water for future generations, NARUC is asking consumers to check, twist and replace:

- Check for leaks. Look for dripping faucets, showerheads, sprinklers and other fixtures. Also check for toilets with silent leaks by putting a few drops of food coloring into the tank, waiting 10 minutes and seeing if color appears in the bowl before you flush. Don't forget to check irrigation systems and spigots too.
- **Twist and tighten hose and pipe connections.** To save water without a noticeable difference in flow in your bathroom, twist on a WaterSense labeled faucet aerator.
- Replace the fixture if necessary. Look for WaterSense labeled models, which are independently certified to use 20 percent less water and perform as well as or better than standard models.

In many cases, fixture replacement parts pay for themselves quickly and can be installed by handy do-it-yourselfers or local plumbing professionals. Irrigation professionals certified through a WaterSense labeled program can also check your systems for leaks. To find WaterSense-labeled products or an auditor in your area and for more Fix a Leak Week information and resources, visit <u>www.epa.gov/watersense</u>.

## About NARUC

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.

## About WaterSense

WaterSense, a partnership program sponsored by EPA, seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by offering people a simple way to use less water with water-efficient products, new homes, and services. Since the program's inception in 2006, WaterSense has helped consumers save trillions of gallons of water and billions in water and energy bills. For more information, visit <u>www.epa.gov/watersense</u>.