

Honorary Resolution for Commissioner Kelly Speakes-Backman (MD)

WHEREAS, Kelly Speakes-Backman was appointed to the Maryland Public Service Commission on September 12, 2011, and served as a Commissioner until May 29, 2015; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Speakes-Backman represented the Commission adeptly and skillfully on the national front as the Co-Vice-Chair of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Speakes-Backman was twice elected as the Chair of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc. Board of Directors, serving as a tireless advocate for the advancement of cost-effective carbon reduction strategies that allow States to realize environmental and economic goals while maintaining electric grid reliability; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Speakes-Backman also served as a member of the Electric Power Research Institute Energy Efficiency & Grid Modernization Public Advisory Group, a member of the Eastern Interconnection States Planning Council, and as a member of the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification Forum Steering Committee; *and*

WHEREAS, During her 20 years working in energy, sustainability, renewable energy, and environmental business strategies, she cultivated an invaluable technical understanding of this industry that greatly contributed to her effectiveness as an economic regulator; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Speakes-Backman's well-reasoned and principled approach to public service is reflected in decisions and policies adopted during her tenure in the State of Maryland, as well as in testimony submitted to the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan; *and*

WHEREAS, There was no area of utility regulation that escaped her insatiable curiosity for understanding, from resilience in the face of super-storms to market-based decarbonization, and there was no presentation she ever made that failed to amuse, inform, and delight the audience of participants; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Speakes-Backman is widely respected for her expertise on NARUC panels discussing the Clean Power Plan and for her contributions to the regulatory consideration of energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives, *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Speakes-Backman's performance speaking at the British Parliament in the Summer of 2014 as NARUC's representative was so impressive that it inspired the Queen's subjects to have a "reverse Tea-Party" and pour beer into the Thames; *and*

WHEREAS, Commissioner Speakes-Backman's common-sense, collegiality, and commitment to dignity and equality was an inspiration to anyone who worked with her. She was a mentor to

many, including the men and women of the Maryland PSC and NARUC staff, who frequently sought and always valued her counsel and wisdom; *and*

WHEREAS, She was in possession of a great sense of mischief and the most infectious laugh in the entire corpus of Commissioners, which she used without reservation and often; *now, therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2015 Summer Meetings in New York, New York, and the NARUC Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment thanks Kelly Speakes-Backman for her years of dedication as a public servant and her contributions to NARUC; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the NARUC Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment wishes Kelly Speakes-Backman the best in this new phase of her illustrious career.

*Sponsored by the Committees on Energy Resources & the Environment
and the Committee on Electricity
Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors July 15, 2015*