

For Immediate Release

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NARUC
National Association of
Regulatory Utility Commissioners

State Utility Regulators and Federal Officials Join NARUC to Unpack Affordability and Reliability Issues at Winter Policy Summit

*Board of Directors Pass Resolutions Aimed at Affordability, Energy Resources and
Telecommunications*

WASHINGTON (February 13, 2026) — The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' four-day Winter Policy Summit drew more than 2,000 attendees to the Washington, D.C., meeting, convening regulators, federal officials, consumer advocates, utility representatives, media and others to discuss affordability, reliability, AI and other pressing topics.

Federal participants included members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, with FERC Chairman Laura Swett engaging with NARUC President Ann Rendahl (Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission) on the main stage for a fireside chat. The conversation focused on Swett's priorities as the new chair, affordability, reliability and permitting energy infrastructure. Department of Energy Acting Undersecretary Alex Fitzsimmons provided remarks before the opening panel on cyber threats to essential services. Fitzsimmons serves as the DOE's director of the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, U.S. Department of Energy. Other keynote speakers included Senator Deb Fischer (Neb.), Congressman Brett Guthrie (Ky.), Congressman Scott Peterson (Calif.) and Senator Angus King, Jr. (Maine).

Along with the general sessions, committee meetings were held across all energy and utility sectors focusing on affordability, permitting, data centers, AI, workforce, electric vehicles and resource adequacy.

In her opening remarks, Rendahl noted that several of the sessions address the issues and challenges in advancing reliable and resilient infrastructure — part of her presidential theme for the year. "The presentations, comments and discussions we will have over the next few days are representative of the overall theme for this year and for the next two presidents — uniting regulators, harmonizing impact," she said.

On the final day of the Policy Summit, FERC hosted the fourth meeting of the [Federal-State Current Issues Collaborative](#), with *Impact of Growth on Affordability* as the topic.

Workshop and Site Visits

During the meeting, an interactive workshop allowed participants to delve into NARUC's new [Wildfire Workbook](#) to learn about key issues such as data-driven risk mapping, grid hardening trade-offs and cost-recovery considerations. Facilitated small group discussions focused on identifying new and emerging wildfire issues and their potential for inclusion in the workbook, or further NARUC focus.

"The workshop was an overwhelming success," said Rendahl. "We had a standing-room only audience, with people overflowing in the hall to listen in, which is a testament to not only the value of the workbook itself but also demonstrates the importance of this issue. The NARUC team and our collaborators have done a great job pulling together this resource and the ongoing engagement."

NARUC members visited a Google data center operating in Loudoun County, Va., to see firsthand how a data center operates with respect to energy usage, water consumption and other factors. Members also were able to tour Pepco's Mt. Vernon Substation to better understand its role within the regional electric system, which highlighted technical, operational and planning considerations relevant to system reliability, load growth and regulatory oversight.

Resolutions

The NARUC Board of Directors passed several substantive and honorary resolutions at the conclusion of the meeting. The substantive resolutions are as follows:

- [Resolution to Support Adequate and Timely Federal Funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#)
- [Resolution on Unlocking Energy Efficiency to Support Adequate Energy Supply and Curb Electric Bill Increases](#)
- [Resolution Supporting Renewable Natural Gas as a Strategic Energy Resource to Enhance Economic Growth, Reliability, and Emissions Reductions](#)
- [Resolution on Telephone Number Conservation White Paper](#)

Several honorary resolutions were passed to recognize the service of NARUC members who have recently left their utility commissions. Those resolutions are available online at bit.ly/NARUCWinter26Honorary.

Next Meeting

NARUC's next meeting, the Summer Policy Summit, will be held July 19-22 in Minneapolis. A call for abstracts will be forthcoming soon and posted on the homepage, naruc.org.

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About.NARUC

NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1945 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;