

Resolution Honoring Commissioner Diane X. Burman

Whereas Diane X. Burman served as a Commissioner of the New York State Public Service Commission from July 2013 to April 2024;

Whereas Diane was nominated to the New York State Public Service Commission by Governor Andrew Cuomo and unanimously confirmed by the New York State Senate in June 2013, and renominated and again unanimously confirmed to another full six-year term concluding in February 2024;

Whereas Diane previously held the public service positions of Chief Counsel to the Majority Conference of the New York State Senate, Assistant Attorney General at the Office of the State Attorney General, Assistant Counsel at the New York State Department of Economic Development, Special Counsel to the Commission at the New York State Public Service Commission, Senior Court Attorney at the New York Supreme Court and Clerk at the Court of Appeals;

Whereas Diane also served in the non-profit sector serving in roles focused on helping those in her community, including as Assistant Executive Director of Albany Jewish Community Center, Executive Director of the New York State Parent Teacher Association and Director of Pro Bono for the New York State Bar Association;

Whereas Diane also served as an Adjunct Legal Instructor at both Adelphi University and Hofstra University where her students consistently gave rave ratings;

Whereas Diane continues to serve her state in the position of Assistant Counsel at the Office of the New York State Comptroller working on a diverse portfolio including corporate governance, compliance, finance, and other fiscal management services;

Whereas Diane served as a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Board of Directors, Chair and member of the Committee on Gas, member of the Washington Action Committee, member of the Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety, Co-Vice Chair and member of the Select Committee on Regulatory and Industry Diversity, member of the Committee on International Relations, member of the Committee on Critical Infrastructure, Chair of the U.S. Department of Energy-NARUC Natural Gas Infrastructure Modernization Partnership and its successor, the Natural Gas Partnership, member of the Task Force on Natural Gas Resource Planning, and member of the Task Force on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Resilience – Subcommittee on Lessons Learned from COVID-19;

Whereas, in 2020 Diane received the NARUC “Terry Barnich” Annual Award for Promoting International Cooperation among Utility Regulators and Development of Professional Regulation and has committed herself to promoting regulatory good practices through her myriad of in-person and online trainings with international energy regulators in the Andes region, Argentina, Europe & Eurasia region, India, Mexico, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Ukraine and elsewhere around the world;

Whereas Diane dedicated her service on the New York State Public Service Commission to ensuring reliable, safe, secure, environmentally friendly access to energy and always doing so as a steward of her state's ratepayers;

Whereas Diane was an unapologetic economic regulator, who cared deeply about the importance of collaboration, honest substantive solution-focused discussions, and not shying away from the stickiness of well-meaning but perhaps difficult-to-implement policies in the regulatory space;

Whereas Diane was a thoughtful and engaged participant in many of NARUC's in-person and virtual educational programs, often serving as one of the most knowledgeable on the critical challenges facing the energy grid transition;

Whereas Diane has been an enthusiastic cheerleader of women and underrepresented constituencies in the energy profession, mentoring and offering advice and support to fellow commissioners, commission staff, NARUC staff, and others;

Whereas Diane not only generously shared her own expertise and suggestions but also always listened to the perspectives of others and worked hard to bring people together and make a positive difference;

Whereas Diane served as a member of the National Petroleum Council, GTI Energy's Public Interest Advisory Committee, Vice-Chair of the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) Gas Policy Advisory Committee, member of PHMSA's Liquid Pipeline Advisory Committee, Chair of PHMSA's Voluntary Information Sharing Working Group, and member of the U.S. Agency for International Development-NARUC Women Global Development and Prosperity Initiative;

Whereas Diane strongly promoted safe digging practices;

Whereas Diane completed a major life goal in November 2023 when she ran and completed the NYC Marathon as part of a Women & Allies in Energy charity team;

Whereas Diane has demonstrated her commitment to volunteer service through leadership roles with the Daughters of Sarah Jewish Foundation, New York State Bar Association, serving meals to the homebound, and volunteering at a local community soup kitchen, in addition to advisory and volunteer roles with the Greater Albany Chapter of the Women's Energy Network, Women in Energy and Communications in New York, and Congregation Beth Emeth in Albany, New York; Whereas, in 2021, Diane was bestowed the highest honor from Congregation Beth Emeth, the Presidential Award, for her volunteer leadership role in successfully shepherding the Congregation through Covid under the auspices of the Beth Emeth Covid Special Task Force;

Whereas Diane earned a Juris Doctor degree from the Fordham University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Molloy College;

Whereas Diane “rendered faithful, conscientious, and valuable service to the citizens of the State of New York, earning the admiration, esteem, and affection of her colleagues,” as written in New York Senate Resolution No. 2016; and

Whereas Diane has embodied and continues to reflect the true essence of public service; *now therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2024 Summer Policy Summit in Palm Beach, Florida extends its congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Diane X. Burman for her dedicated service to the national regulatory community and her continued personal and professional activities focused on making a positive difference.

*Passed by the Committee on International Relations and Committee on Gas
Adopted by the Board of Directors July 17, 2024*