

HONORARY RESOLUTIONS

PASSED BY THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AT THE

2021 WINTER POLICY SUMMIT

OF THE

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
REGULATORY UTILITY COMMISSIONERS**

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Resolution Honoring Commissioner Jeffrey P. Ackermann of Colorado

Whereas Jeffrey P. Ackermann holds a Bachelor's degree from Albion College and a Master's degree in non-profit management from Regis University;

Whereas Jeff has spent more than three decades in state government and the energy sector, starting his professional career in the service of low-income energy consumers, twice as director of Colorado's energy efficiency assistance program (weatherization) as well as an advocate for energy consumers with the state's non-profit energy assistance fund;

Whereas during the years that followed, Jeff led the research efforts at the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, focusing on issues ranging from electric system planning to the regulatory implications of emerging technologies and scenario planning. Jeff also served as an advisor to the commissioners on energy efficiency;

Whereas in 2013, Jeff was named executive director of the Colorado Energy Office. Under his leadership, the office made significant strides in improving innovative production and efficient consumption of Colorado's energy resources;

Whereas Jeff was appointed Chairman of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission ("PUC") effective Jan. 9, 2017, by Governor John Hickenlooper. His four-year term expired on Jan. 11, 2021;

Whereas during his tenure as chairman, Jeff helped guide the Colorado PUC as it navigated an energy industry transformation driven by technological advancements and environmental imperatives. He dealt with unprecedented matters of statewide importance, such as Public Service Company and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association electric resource planning, electric grid modernization, accelerated coal plant retirements, transportation electrification, and electric distribution system planning;

Whereas Jeff worked diligently to advance good regulatory policy not only for the consumers of Colorado, but also nationally by service as chair of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners ("NARUC") Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment ("ERE") and co-chair of the NARUC-NASEO Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning, in addition to service on other regional and national boards and institutes;

Whereas as a frequently sought speaker, moderator, and emcee, Jeff routinely brought levity, obscure historical references, wryly delivered humor, inspirational insights, and unexpected connections to his many energy-related engagements;

Whereas Jeff led not only his region, but the nation through the NARUC ERE Committee meetings efficiently and effectively, seeking to learn and creating an atmosphere where all points of view were welcomed, and Jeff was never heard to utter any hurtful remarks to any person;

Whereas while volunteering with NARUC International, Jeff dedicated his expertise and unique problem-solving skills to assisting the Jordan Energy Regulatory Commission in advancing best practices on topics such as energy efficiency and rate-making, through many impassioned diagrams scribbled on scrap paper and insightful presentations;

Whereas as part of the cultural experience of volunteering with NARUC International, Jeff bought a large amount of Jordanian spices that almost a decade later he has still not been able to use up and will continue to serve in meals to his family and any willing guests for many years to come; *and*

Whereas Jeff endured the COVID-19 Pandemic with as much grace and dignity as possible, including patient and gentle treatment of his feline office mate who insisted upon purr-ticipating in Zoom meetings; *therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its Winter Policy Summit, extends gratitude to Jeffrey Ackermann for his leadership and wisdom, both at the Colorado PUC and NARUC, and for his efforts to continually champion strong environmental stewardship and consideration of low-income ratepayers. NARUC expresses its best wishes for his future endeavors.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment
Adopted by the Board of Directors on February 11, 2020*

Honorary Resolution for Commissioner Kara Fornstrom

Whereas Kara Fornstrom served on the Wyoming Public Service Commission (“PSC”) as a Commissioner from 2013-2017, Deputy Chair from 2017-2019, and as Chairman since 2019;

Whereas Chairman Fornstrom’s involvement with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”) included roles as: Member of the NARUC Board of Directors; Member of the Committee on Electricity; Vice Chair of the Clean Coal and Carbon Management Subcommittee; Member of the NARUC-U.S. Department of Energy Natural Gas Infrastructure Modernization Partnership; former President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer of the Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners; former Member of the Committee on Gas; and former Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety;

Whereas Chairman Fornstrom represented Wyoming as Vice Chair of the Energy Imbalance Market’s Board of State Regulators, Class 5 Member of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council Advisory Committee, Chair of the Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body, Wyoming representative on the Northern Tier Transmission Group, and formerly as a Member of the Gas Technology Institute’s Public Interest Advisory Committee;

Whereas Chairman Fornstrom has shown exceptional dedication to furthering Wyoming’s leadership in advancing the use of carbon capture, utilization, and storage technology to use abundant domestic energy resources, create jobs and economic growth, and lower greenhouse gas emissions;

Whereas Chairman Fornstrom began her legal career in the Wyoming Attorney General’s Office Water Division and continued practicing law focused on water issues as a founding partner of Hageman & Brighton;

Whereas Chairman Fornstrom received her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Wyoming and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law;

Whereas Chairman Fornstrom is a dedicated wife and mother to her husband, Justin, and daughter, Keefer, as well as an active civic leader in her community of Pine Bluffs and her church, St. Paul’s Catholic Church;
and

Whereas Chairman Fornstrom’s commitment to public service will be remembered at the Wyoming PSC, NARUC, and the numerous organizations in which she has served; *now therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2021 Winter Policy Summit, congratulates Commissioner Emeritus Kara Fornstrom on her tenure at the Wyoming Public Service Commission and expresses its best wishes for her future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on February 11, 2021

Honorary Resolution for Commissioner Sarah Hofmann of Vermont

Whereas Sarah Hofmann was appointed to the Public Utility Commission in 2015 by Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin and has served with integrity and distinction for the entirety of her six-year term;

Whereas Commissioner Hofmann serves on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”) Board of Directors, the Committee on Telecommunications, and the Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues - Waste Disposal;

Whereas Commissioner Hofmann serves as the chair of the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition;

Whereas Commissioner Hofmann is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Council on Electricity Policy;

Whereas Commissioner Hofmann serves on the Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations in Telecommunications and the Interstate Telecommunications Relay Service Advisory Board;

Whereas Commissioner Hofmann serves on the Board of Directors of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative;

Whereas prior to joining the Public Utility Commission, Commissioner Hofmann served as the Executive Director of the New England Conference of Public Utilities Commissioners, Inc. (“NECPUC”);

Whereas before becoming Executive Director of NECPUC, Commissioner Hofmann served at the Vermont Department of Public Service for a total of 17 years in the roles of Deputy Commissioner, Director for Public Advocacy and Consumer Affairs and Public Information, and Special Counsel;

Whereas in her roles at the Department of Public Service, she often directed the Department’s litigation, including matters before the Public Utility Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and state and federal courts;

Whereas Commissioner Hofmann is a graduate of Rollins College and the University of New Hampshire School of Law;

Whereas Commissioner Hofmann’s calm and thoughtful judicial demeanor in the hearing room set the standard for the Commission’s staff to live up to when presiding over hearings;

Whereas Commissioner Hofmann’s wealth of knowledge and expertise about the world of utility regulation in general, and Vermont utility regulation in particular, will be greatly missed by all those who worked with her;

Whereas Commissioner Hofmann’s kindness, generosity, and level-headedness helped to create a collegial, respectful, and supportive work environment even at times when the chips were down and the pressure was up;

Whereas Commissioner Hofmann is the mastermind and architect behind the annual office-wide purchase of Girl Scout cookies to ensure an adequate supply of cookies for consumption by Commission staff at the weekly Commission meetings; *and*

Whereas Commissioner Hofmann always maintained a container full of Lake Champlain Chocolate truffles in her office for staff to access in times of needed stress relief; *now therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2021 Winter Policy Summit, extends its gratitude to Sarah Hofmann for her leading roles on NARUC's Board of Directors, Committee on Telecommunications, and Subcommittee on Nuclear Issues - Waste Disposal, and for her years of service to the people of the State of Vermont, and expresses its best wishes for her future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Committee on Telecommunications

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on February 11, 2021

Resolution Honoring Robert “Bob” Lake of Montana

Whereas Commissioner Robert “Bob” Lake was born in Ronan, Montana, and graduated from Ronan High School;

Whereas Commissioner Lake served in the United States Army from 1956 to 1958 and married Faithe 62 years ago;

Whereas Commissioner Lake spent 38 years in the animal feed business and owned a business in Hamilton, Montana, for 22 years;

Whereas Commissioner Lake has served as the Chairman of the Montana Chamber of Commerce as well as President of the Montana Chamber Foundation and has served on the Montana Lottery Board;

Whereas Commissioner Lake served in the Montana House of Representatives from 2003 to 2010, serving on the House Education Committee and House Rules Committee and as Chairman of both the House Taxation Committee and the House Ethics Committee, and was appointed to the Select Committee on Education Funding Lawsuit in 2005;

Whereas Commissioner Lake served in the Montana State Senate as Vice-Chairman of the Senate Taxation Committee and was a member of the Senate Energy and Telecommunication Committee and the Senate Education Committee;

Whereas Commissioner Lake was elected to the Montana Public Service Commission in 2012, representing District 4, and was reelected to the Montana Public Service Commission in 2016;

Whereas while serving on the Montana Public Service Commission, Commissioner Lake served as a liaison with the Bonneville Power Administration and was a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners’ Committee on Electricity;

Whereas Commissioner Lake served as Vice-Chairman of the Montana Public Service Commission from 2013 to 2014 and, again, from 2019 to 2020;

Whereas Commissioner Lake ended his term at the Montana Public Service Commission in December 2020 as Chairman;

Whereas Commissioner Lake brought kindness, compassion, and sense of humor with him wherever he went;

Whereas Commissioner Lake was a strong mentor to many staff members throughout his career, providing fair, common sense and practical advice; *and*

Whereas Commissioner Lake officiated the wedding of one of his Granddaughters in 2020; *now therefore be it*

Resolved that the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners convened at its 2021 Winter Policy Summit extends to Commissioner Emeritus Robert Lake gratitude and appreciation for his years of public service to the State of Montana and for his service to NARUC's Committee on Electricity, and memorializes here its best wishes for his future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on February 11, 2021

Resolution Honoring Liane M. Randolph of California

Whereas, after earning her Bachelor of Arts in History and Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Los Angeles, Commissioner Liane M. Randolph began her respected and spirited legal career serving as City Attorney for the Cities of San Leandro and Suisun;

Whereas Commissioner Randolph was appointed by Governor Gray Davis as Chair of the California Fair Political Practices Commission in 2003, where she significantly advanced tools and standards for ethics and transparency in state government;

Whereas Commissioner Randolph continued her work in regulatory law and was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown in 2011 to serve as Deputy Secretary and General Counsel at the California Natural Resources Agency;

Whereas Commissioner Randolph was appointed to the California Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”) by Governor Jerry Brown in January 2015 and confirmed by the California Senate to serve a six-year term;

Whereas Commissioner Randolph utilized her extensive government agency experience to lead the CPUC in long-term electric and gas resource planning, climate change adaptation for utilities, utility infrastructure and economic development, and energy market design;

Whereas Commissioner Randolph was a fan of concise brevity in all things—comments from the dais, opening remarks, and panel discussions, to name a few;

Whereas Commissioner Randolph was approachable and gracious, yet decisive and persistent in pursuit of the course of action that she believed was the best way to serve Californians;

Whereas Commissioner Randolph used her expertise in administrative law to work tirelessly to make the CPUC’s regulatory processes more accessible and transparent to the practitioners and the public;

Whereas Commissioner Randolph was accessible to agency staff and has never turned down anyone seeking her guidance;

Whereas Commissioner Randolph’s pragmatic, logical thought process and ability to listen closely to everyone’s perspective allowed her to assist colleagues with devising complex regulatory frameworks; *and*

Whereas Commissioner Randolph will continue to serve Californians as the Chair of the California Air Resources Board, where she was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom in December 2020, *therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2021 Winter Policy Summit, congratulates Commissioner Emeritus Liane Randolph on her tenure at the California Public Utilities Commission and expresses its best wishes for her future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Committee on Electricity

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on February 11, 2021

Resolution Honoring Commissioner Nick Wagner of Iowa

Whereas Nick Wagner was appointed to the Iowa Utilities Board in 2013 by then-Governor Terry Branstad, and was reappointed in 2019 by Governor Kim Reynolds;

Whereas Commissioner Wagner served more than seven years as a board member of the Iowa Utilities Board (“IUB”), and demonstrated the professional and intellectual curiosity needed to learn the intricacies of rates and services of electric, natural gas, and water utilities, and the services of the communications industry, as well as pipelines and the electric transmission systems;

Whereas Commissioner Wagner became involved in the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”) by serving on its Committee on Gas, the Washington Action Program (Co-Chair), and Committee on Critical Infrastructure. He also served as a member of the NARUC Board of Directors, and on the Executive Committee of the Board;

Whereas Commissioner Wagner also became involved with other NARUC-affiliated organizations, including the Mid-America Regulatory Conference (“MARC”) where he served as president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary;

Whereas Commissioner Wagner also served as Treasurer for the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel 2.0 and as a board member, and served as Treasurer of the National Council on Electricity Policy, and further served as a member of the Executive Committee of the Critical Consumer Issues Forum, and as a member of the New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities advisory committee;

Whereas in November 2018, Commissioner Wagner was elected to serve as President of NARUC;

Whereas during his year as NARUC President, Commissioner Wagner focused on helping NARUC’s members gain the tools and expertise required to be successful in their roles as utility commissioners through enhanced education programming of the Association;

Whereas prior to his appointment to the Iowa Utilities Board, Commissioner, Wagner served a four-year term as a Marion City Council member and two two-year terms in the Iowa House of Representatives, where he served as ranking member and chair of the Local Government Committee, and as vice chair of the Appropriations Committee. He also served on the Administration and Regulation Budget Sub Committee and the Commerce, Transportation, and Ways and Means Committees;

Whereas Commissioner Wagner brought an impressive set of skills with him to the position on the IUB, having over 15 years of professional and management experience including project execution, facility energy and efficiency audits, and building control, programming, team management, project management, strategic planning, process improvement, quality management, continuous improvement, among others;

Whereas Commissioner Wagner announced in July 2020 that he was trading in his blue badge for a green one, by stepping down from the IUB to become vice president of Colorado regulatory affairs and policy with Black Hills Energy, where he is currently employed; *and*

Whereas Commissioner Wagner’s appreciation and enjoyment of fine bourbon gave rise to the establishment of NARUC’s popular “Whiskey Caucus,” which continues to meet informally in conjunction with NARUC meetings, and is a legacy of note; *now, therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2021 Winter Policy Summit extends its sincere gratitude to Nick Wagner for his outstanding leadership as President of the Association, and for his continuous support for NARUC; *and be it further*

Resolved that his friends and former colleagues are pleased to wish Nick and Mandy Wagner the very best in all future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Executive Committee

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on February 11, 2021

***Resolution Honoring Deborah “Debbie” Scott
“NARUC Honors a Legend”***

Whereas Deborah “Debbie” Scott joined the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”) family in 1981, and quickly was promoted to the Executive Assistant to the Executive Director, and for more than 38 years remained in that position providing crucial assistance (and often guidance) to NARUC’s Executive Directors;

Whereas many have never actually seen Debbie when she was not smiling;

Whereas there is literally no one in NARUC who knows or has met Debbie that does not also like and respect her – her gregariousness, sense of humor and ever-cheerful demeanor, and long-time service to NARUC have made her an invaluable friend and confidante of NARUC’s staff, Officers (especially Presidents), Commissioners and state staff along with other long time NARUC meeting attendees from federal agencies and sector trade associations;

Whereas there is also literally no one else in NARUC that actually knows ALL those Commissioners, staff, and regular attendee’s names and titles;

Whereas Debbie always had a comfortable chair and a friendly smile anytime anyone asked her a historical or contemporary question;

Whereas Debbie had the audacity to retire even when it was clear that without her all of NARUC staff will face the daunting task of trying to figure out how to do nearly everything at NARUC;

Whereas Debbie’s incredible range of responsibilities increased year by year – from the infamous 5-minute phone pre-interviews where prospective NARUC employees had to first get a passing rating (from zero to five) on phone affability to even get a shot of an in-person interview, to joining in the pre-meeting onsite all-staff grinds to “stuff packets” and edit and assemble resolution packets, to keeping all the notification letters and committee lists up, editing aspects of the NARUC newsletter, arranging and keeping track of all NARUC travel, helping edit and distribute final resolutions, keeping the NARUC Executive Committee and Board minutes – to the point where any resolution cannot do full justice to her contributions to the smooth running of the office, the website, and NARUC meetings;

Whereas in addition to the routine and broader responsibilities she regularly handled, Deb was also a key part of the social glue that has made NARUC a great place to work, always greeting each person and every request with a smile and the utmost professionalism; in the face of seemingly unreasonable deadlines and mini-crises that erupted often, serving as a calming figure in the chaotic and exciting world of utility regulation (and NARUC meetings); thoughtfully planning staff appreciation events (and spreading joy by enthusiastically participating in these events often with adorable holiday sweaters or fun costumes); and single-handedly keeping Georgetown Cupcake in business by celebrating each and every birthday, baby and farewells – on top of captaining one of the NARUC bowling teams – complete with custom shirts and, sometimes not always fully appreciated, temporary tattoos;

Whereas NARUC agrees with the comments of former NARUC Finance Director and current Lieutenant Governor of the State of Nebraska, Mike Foley, that Debbie was “a critically important team player in a wide variety of matters whether it was in the Washington, DC office or while on travel” and that Debbie “always handled even the most delicate and difficult assignments with a smile and positive attitude;”

Whereas there is no question that Debbie's institutional knowledge can never be replaced; *and*

Whereas two things are certain: Debbie's departure will leave a gap not easily filled and all her friends at NARUC will miss her dedication, advice, and, most importantly, her smile and cheerful manner; *now, therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners expresses its appreciation to Debbie Scott for her (nearly) 39 years of hard work and service to NARUC and the Commissioners and staffs throughout the country and our best wishes to Debbie and Rob, and their wonderful growing family, for a long and happy retirement.

Sponsored by the Executive Committee

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on February 11, 2021