

For Immediate Release

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North Dakota Commissioner Sheri Haugen-Hoffart Honored with NARUC Barnich Award for International Work

WASHINGTON (November 11, 2024) — In recognition of her efforts to advance effective regulation internationally, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners honored Commissioner Sheri Haugen-Hoffart of the North Dakota Public Service Commission with the 2024 Terry Barnich Award at the Association's 136th Annual Meeting and Education Conference.

The prestigious award recognizes state commissioners and staff who promote international cooperation among utility regulators and the development of professional regulation. The award is named in honor of former chair of the Illinois Commerce Commission Terrence "Terry" Barnich, who served as chair from 1989 to 1992. He was killed on Memorial Day, May 25, 2009, while working as the deputy director of the State Department office overseeing U.S. reconstruction projects in Iraq. The Terry Barnich Award is the highest honor bestowed by NARUC's Committee on International Relations.

"This past year, Commissioner Haugen-Hoffart has made significant contributions to the United States Agency for International Development and NARUC Advancing Women Leaders in Energy initiative, particularly in sharing her expertise with the Human Resources Working Group," said NARUC Executive Director Greg White.

This working group meets virtually to identify HR-focused actions that incorporate policies and procedures to support a more inclusive workforce. Commissioner Haugen-Hoffart has reviewed and provided insight on the onboarding documents and process of the Regulatory Commission for Energy in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"She has also readily shared resources for other commissions to learn from, including documentation on the topics of active listening, workload management and team development. In addition, Commissioner Haugen-Hoffart participated in an AWLE training on unconscious bias in June 2023, during which she shared her experiences with unconscious bias and how to address it in the workplace as well as how to ensure it is removed from the onboarding experience.

"Her enthusiasm and willingness to help commissions as they work toward achieving structural and institutional change is commendable, and we hope that she will continue to collaborate with NARUC in helping international partners drive meaningful change in their energy sectors," added White.

When asked to emphasize some of her key takeaways from participating in NARUC activities, Haugen-Hoffart said, "Participating in the USAID and NARUC AWLE initiative has allowed me to channel my passion and experience in human resources to mentor and inspire women in the energy sector. This international program offers a platform to address workforce challenges like eliminating unconscious bias, creating an inclusive environment, and refining the onboarding process to retain a well-trained successful workforce. I look forward to continuing my work with NARUC in helping our international partners succeed."

Haugen-Hoffart holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Dakota and a master's degree in management from the University of Mary.

She was appointed to the North Dakota PSC in February 2022 by Governor Doug Burgum and was confirmed by the voters in Nov. 2022. She came to the Commission after working in the Office of State Tax Commissioner as a human resource manager since 2017. Previous to her most recent position at the Tax Commissioner's office, she served as the deputy state treasurer, director of

education in the North Dakota Securities Department, coordinator for the University of North Dakota's Division of Continuing Education in Bismarck and emergency service director for the Burleigh-Morton Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Haugen-Hoffart was elected to the board of directors of Capital Electric Cooperative in 2010 and became chair of the board in 2020. She also previously chaired the board of Central Power Electric Cooperative, a wholesale power supply and transmission cooperative whose six member co-ops include Capital Electric.

To learn more about the award, visit www.naruc.org/barnichaward.

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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.