

For Immediate Release

Contact: Regina L. Davis, 202-898-9382, rdavis@naruc.org



NARUC
National Association of Regulatory
Utility Commissioners

NARUC Urges Congress to Continue Funding Low-Income Water Program on National “Imagine a Day Without Water”

WASHINGTON (October 19, 2023) — Today, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and state utility regulators join elected officials, water utilities, community leaders, educators and businesses from across the country to recognize the ninth annual **Imagine a Day Without Water**, a nationwide observance promoting education and advocacy regarding the value of water.

As part of its ongoing commitment to raising awareness about the role of water infrastructure in everyone’s lives and the importance of access and affordability, NARUC today sent a [letter](#) to Congress urging members to ensure continued funding for the Low-Income Water Program. NARUC passed resolutions in 2020 and 2022 strongly endorsing the need to maintain a low-income water program similar to the Low-Income Heating Energy Assistance Program that helps customers pay their energy bills. Today’s [letter](#) reminds Congress that without action, some of their constituents may soon be facing days without water. It reiterates NARUC’s call for Congress to continue funding the HHS Department-based Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program.

The fact that two million Americans do not have access to water services is alarming, as well as the challenge of maintaining water infrastructure that is a century-old in certain regions. The lack of stability of water supplies and services across the country is a growing concern. **Imagine a Day Without Water** encourages Americans to think about the implications of a day without water and invites them to learn more about the infrastructure and funding that keep water running in our communities. Low-income communities are the most likely to experience a lack of access to clean drinking water or sanitation in their homes. When this occurs, people cannot bathe children, prepare meals, wash clothes or even fill a glass with cold, clean drinking water from the tap.

“When fresh water is available, it’s the best value in America. “When it’s not, water is more precious than gold,” said Connecticut Commissioner and NARUC President Michael A. Caron. “On this Day Without Water, NARUC and its members will continue to advocate for safe, affordable access to water in all communities across the nation. We strongly urge Congress to support our call to fund the Low-Income Water Program.”

“Every community, every person, every business, every worker relies on it. Agriculture, energy, manufacturing, and tourism — more than one-fifth of our nation’s economic output — depend on water,” said North Carolina Commissioner and NARUC Committee on Water Chair Jeff Hughes. “Water is the most important thing in our daily lives — and most people don’t need to think twice about it. “On this day, let’s remember to think twice about this precious resource and not take what we have for granted.”

As **Imagine a Day Without Water** grows, now is the time to emphasize the importance of water infrastructure and the workforce that supports it, highlighting the need for partnerships at all levels to promote water infrastructure funding. Learn more at imagineadaywithoutwater.org and follow the conversation on social media at **#ValueWater**.

###

About NARUC

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.

[The Value of Water Campaign](#) educates and inspires the nation about how water is essential, invaluable, and in need of investment. Spearheaded by top leaders in the water industry, the Value of Water Campaign is building public and political will for investment in America's water infrastructure. Follow The Value of Water Campaign on [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) and [LinkedIn](#).