

Resolution Honoring Stan “The Man” Wise

Whereas on October 2, 2017, Georgia voters received notice of the end of an era: the longest serving Republican State-wide elected official in Georgia, Public Service Commission Chairman Stan Wise announced that he would not seek re-election to the seat he has held for 23 years;

Whereas Stan was elected to the Public Service Commission in 1994, just barely squeaking by the incumbent by less than 1% of the vote, but then handily winning three more consecutive terms in 2000, in 2006, and in 2012;

Whereas this repeated electoral success is understandable to anyone that has spent any time with Stan as inexplicably the man is always in a good mood, he is always smiling, he invariably starts any public statement with self-deprecating humor, and, as his friends at NARUC and in the press know well – he does know how to spin a yarn;

Whereas Commissioner Wise prepared for his stint in public service by snagging a B.S. in Business Management from the Charleston Southern University, and serving in the U.S. Air Force Reserve;

Whereas he built up a county-wide reputation as the owner of an insurance business in Cobb County, which paved the way for his election in 1990 to his first public office as a Cobb County Commissioner, serving the county also as a member of the Cobb County Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals;

Whereas at 6 foot 5, Commissioner Wise was a standout from the beginning at NARUC – hard to miss in any room – but even if you couldn’t see him – (sadly) you could always hear him, and at NARUC he was heard a lot – actively engaged in the association from the first day, he has served on both the NARUC International Committee and as a Chair and a long-time member of the NARUC Gas Committee, rising to the top of NARUC to serve an unusual two terms in 2003 and 2004 as NARUC President;

Whereas in his years of service, Stan has found time to serve as President of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and on the U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Advisory Board, the Board of the ten-county Atlanta Regional Commission, the Advisory Council for the New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities, the Board of Trustees for the Feed the Hungry Foundation, the Action Ministries Board of Directors, the Cobb County Public Schools Educational Foundation, Inc., the Board of Directors of the Cobb YMCA, the Boys Club of Cobb County, and on the Advisory Board of the North Georgia Law Enforcement Academy;

Whereas Stan’s tenure at the Georgia Commission spanned the reformation of AT&T from several Baby Bells, the onset of local and long distance phone competition, and the dawn of the Internet Age. His service started before Atlanta hosted the 1996 Summer Olympics. Under order of the PSC, Atlanta became the first city in the nation to roll-out ten digit dialing for outgoing calls and the retail natural gas market was deregulated during his watch. Also during his tenure, billions were invested to modernize electric and natural gas energy infrastructure, plant emission controls

made air quality vastly better, and Georgia became a leader in deploying renewable energy. Moreover, Wise, as an unabashed supporter of nuclear power, dealt with critical regulatory issues surrounding the construction of two nuclear units at Plant Vogtle;

Whereas throughout his service he was an advocate for competitive markets with level playing fields and embraced the important role the Commission and utilities play in advancing economic development, job creation, community service and philanthropy;

Whereas Stan's success would not have been possible without the solid support from his life partner Denise, his beloved children, Adam, and his wife Shannon, and Lindsay, and her husband Joe, and his precious grandson;

Whereas in 2005, Commissioner Wise was named the Bonbright Center of the Terry College of Business Honoree of the Year and in 2006, his alma mater, Charleston Southern University, named Wise the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year;

Whereas two things are certain: Stan's departure will leave a major gap not easily filled and his friends at NARUC will miss his counsel, comradery, but mostly his good humor and kindness; *now, therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its Winter Policy Summit in Washington, D.C., expresses its appreciation to Stan Wise for his 23 years of hard work and service to NARUC and the people of the State of Georgia, along with its best wishes for success in his future endeavors.

Sponsored by the Committee on Gas

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