

Honorary Resolution for Commissioner Emeritus Brien J. Sheahan of Illinois

Whereas Commissioner Brien J. Sheahan served as a member of the Illinois Commerce Commission (“ICC” or “Commission”) from January 20, 2015 through January 21, 2020;

Whereas during this term, Commissioner Sheahan served in the capacity of Chairman and CEO from January 20, 2015 through April 15, 2019;

Whereas Commissioner Sheahan first walked the halls of the Illinois Commerce Commission as Commissioner Emeritus Harvill’s Legal & Policy Advisor from 1998 to 2000;

Whereas Commissioner Sheahan is recognized as a national leader among state regulatory commissioners for his promotion of innovation and forward-looking regulatory policy. He is a dedicated public servant and a visionary;

Whereas Commissioner Sheahan promoted the concept of the regulatory sandbox because he believed in reimagining the regulatory construct to embrace innovation and become more tolerant of uncertainty by adopting more flexible frameworks that value learning over time;

Whereas in this role, Commissioner Sheahan presided over all regulated public utility matters in the State of Illinois, including electric, gas, private water and wastewater, telecommunications, water transportation, and motor carrier transportation utilities;

Whereas during this term, Commissioner Sheahan established a first-of-its-kind Office of Cyber Security and Risk Management and Office of Diversity of Community Affairs, as well as led Illinois’ exploration of the “utility of the future” with a study called NextGrid;

Whereas under his leadership, Illinois was ranked second best in the nation in grid modernization;

Whereas Commissioner Sheahan was appointed to the Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee by former U.S. Secretary of Energy Rick Perry in 2018;

Whereas Commissioner Sheahan is well-known for his expertise in legislative relations and extensive background in public policy;

Whereas prior to his appointment to the ICC, Commissioner Sheahan worked as a senior advisor to Governor Rauner’s successful 2014 campaign and as Counsel to the Governor’s transition committee, and previously served as Director of Government Relations for Navistar, a Fortune 500 industrial manufacturer;

Whereas Commissioner Sheahan served three Illinois Governors in senior leadership roles and as General Counsel of the Illinois Republican party;

Whereas he was elected and served on the DuPage County Board for ten years;

Whereas Commissioner Sheahan served as Deputy Executive Director of the Illinois Housing Development Authority, a \$2 billion quasi-public housing lender;

Whereas Commissioner Sheahan has served on the advisory board of the Institute for Regulatory Law and Economics, focusing on educating state regulators about economic analysis of regulatory policy issues;

Whereas Commissioner Sheahan was an active and enthusiastic member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (“NARUC”), serving on its Board of Directors and as an active member of the Committee on Water. He was also appointed and served proudly as Chair to NARUC’s Subcommittee on Presidential Task Force on Innovation where he excelled in bringing forth unique education formats and new insights to each meeting. Commissioner Sheahan and his team organized seven sessions during just one meeting, which goes to show how committed Commissioner Sheahan is to education, awareness, and results;

Whereas Commissioner Sheahan was an active member of the New Mexico State University’s Center for Public Utilities Advisory Council, and the National Association of Parliamentarians;

Whereas Commissioner Sheahan served as a director of the Mid-America Regulatory Conference;

Whereas Commissioner Sheahan is responsible for the nationally recognized effort to diversify the ranks of ICC leadership, resulting in the ICC being named the most diverse public utilities commission in the United States;

Whereas Commissioner Sheahan took great strides in opening the door for new talent and under his leadership, the ICC’s first Latina commissioner, first male African American Chief Administrative Law Judge, and youngest female commissioner were appointed to the ICC;

Whereas Commissioner Sheahan is an avid golfer, which only contributes to his persona of being a man of few, but powerful words;

Whereas Commissioner Sheahan’s vision and policy leadership will be greatly missed; *now, therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2020 Winter Policy Summit in Washington, DC, extends to Brien J. Sheahan its utmost gratitude and appreciation for his years of public service to the State of Illinois and to NARUC and wishes Commissioner Sheahan well in his future endeavors.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Water and Subcommittee on Supplier & Workforce Diversity
Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on February 12, 2020*