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California's Simon Tapped to Chair NARUC Gas Committee

WASHINGTON—National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners President David Coen of Vermont appointed Commissioner Timothy Alan Simon of California as Chair of the Association's Committee on Gas.

Commissioner Simon, currently a Co-Vice Chair of the committee, replaces Committee Chair G. O'Neal Hamilton of South Carolina, whose term is expiring in mid-September. President Coen also nominated Commissioner Matt Baker of Colorado to fill Commissioner Simon's Co-Vice Chair slot, serving alongside current Co-Vice Chair Colette Honorable of Arkansas.

Through panel discussions and educational sessions, the Gas Committee fosters awareness and understanding of issues affecting the transportation, distribution, and sale of natural gas safely, efficiently, and economically. Committee members work closely with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the U.S. departments of Energy and Transportation.

"Commissioner Simon's leadership of this committee could not come at

a more crucial time,” President Coen said. “With Congress and the federal government considering profound changes to our energy sector, Commissioner Simon will provide a balanced look at all the challenges we face. He will position this committee to educate our members and develop best practices so NARUC can be well-situated to impact the national debate. I am also grateful to Commissioner Baker for stepping up to serve his colleagues as a Co-Vice Chair. He brings a unique perspective that will serve the Gas Committee and our nation’s ratepayers well. Finally, I want to thank Commissioner Hamilton for his determined and inclusive oversight of the Gas Committee. NARUC, State regulators, and consumers are better off because of his service.”

Commissioner Simon was appointed to the California Public Utilities Commission by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Feb. 15, 2007, and confirmed by the California State Senate on Feb. 28, 2008.

Commissioner Simon is a securities and banking lawyer and law professor. He uses his background to facilitate balanced public policy in utility regulation.

Prior to joining the CPUC, Commissioner Simon was an appointment secretary to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, and was the first African American in California history to hold the post. Previously, Commissioner Simon served as a legal advisor on complex financial products, and has held positions at Global Crown Capital, LLC, PreferredTrade, Inc., Robertson Stephens Investment Banker, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo.

“Gas as a fuel is likely to take a bigger role as our nation transitions to a low-carbon future,” Commissioner Simon said. “It is important that State regulators work together and discuss all options on the table so we can better provide reliable and affordable service for our nation’s ratepayers. I look forward to working with my colleagues around the country on these crucial issues. I thank President Coen for his confidence in me and Commissioner Hamilton for the leadership he has shown this Committee.”

Co-Vice Chair Baker was appointed to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission in January 2008. Prior to joining the PUC, Commissioner Baker served as the Executive Director of Environment Colorado, where he was the architect of Colorado’s Renewable Energy ballot initiative, Amendment 37. He was a leader in efforts to double Colorado’s renewable energy goals, implement policies to greatly expand utility energy efficiency programs and promote state goals to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

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.

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