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ICC CONTACT

Britney Bouie

Office: (312) 914-6701

Britney.Bouie@illinois.gov

ICC Commissioner Bocanegra to Lead NARUC Water Committee

Chicago, IL- Illinois Commerce Commissioner Maria Bocanegra has been chosen as the new chair of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Committee on Water. Her appointment was announced by outgoing chair, Eric Anderson of the Idaho Public Service Commission), during NARUC's Winter Policy Summit.

"Commissioner Bocanegra's previous work on the committee, along with her very engaged co-chairs, has us well-positioned to continue examining important water issues affecting our communities," said NARUC President Paul Kjellander.

The Committee on Water works to increase awareness and understanding of issues surrounding uses and reuses of water and wastewater. Through policy resolutions, panel discussions and participation in high-level events, the committee works closely with several agency and stakeholder groups, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Association of Water Companies, and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators.

"Clean water is a precious, life-sustaining resource that we all need and rely upon. It must be protected, accessible, and affordable to all. This committee has important work ahead as we address critical aging water infrastructure issues, cybersecurity and environmental threats to our water supply, and affordable rates. I am honored to have been chosen to serve as chair and am ready for the challenge," said Bocanegra.

Commissioner Bocanegra was appointed and confirmed to a four year term on the ICC in 2019. Prior to joining the Commission, she served as Arbitrator at the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission and held a public seat on the Labor Advisory Board for the Illinois Department of Labor. She also formerly worked as an attorney where she handled workers' compensation and personal injury claims. Commissioner Bocanegra earned her Juris Doctor from DePaul University College of Law and her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Quincy University.

"Water and wastewater issues are critical aspects of utility regulation across the nation. Commissioner Bocanegra has worked extremely hard on the Water Committee as Co-Vice Chair and her elevation is well deserved. We are extremely proud of her and know she will do a great job," said Illinois Commerce Commission Chairman Carrie K. Zalewski.

Bocanegra's appointment marks the third NARUC committee chaired by an Illinois Commissioner, further positioning the ICC as a leading regulatory Commission in the nation. In recent months, Commissioner D. Ethan Kimbrel was appointed Chair of the Committee on Gas and Commissioner Sadzi Martha Oliva was appointed Chair of the Select Committee on Regulatory and Industry Diversity.

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