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## **ICC Commissioner Sadzi M. Oliva Named Vice Chair of NARUC Subcommittee on Supplier and Workforce Diversity**

CHICAGO...Commissioner Sadzi Martha Oliva of the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) has been named Vice Chair of the [Subcommittee on Supplier and Workforce Diversity](#) for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). Commissioner Oliva will work closely with subcommittee Chair, Michigan Commissioner Rachael A. Eubanks, to bolster diversity and inclusion initiatives and standards in the utility industry nationwide.

“I am honored to serve as Vice Chair of the NARUC Subcommittee on Supplier and Workforce Diversity and look forward to spearheading the collaboration and exchange of ideas among our members with Commissioner Eubanks,” said Commissioner Oliva. “While we have seen improvements in diversity and inclusion efforts when regulators take an active and committed approach, there is more work to be done and I look forward to engaging with stakeholders to continue to drive change.”

As the first Latina commissioner at the ICC, Commissioner Oliva brings a unique skill set to the subcommittee. She actively works with the ICC’s Office of Diversity and Community Affairs (ODCA) to promote methods of inclusiveness for female-owned, minority-owner, veteran-owned, and small business enterprises in the Illinois utility sector. The Illinois Public Utilities Act ([Section 5-117](#)) provides that the ICC collaboratively work with Illinois utilities to encourage increased supplier diversity among its contracted suppliers. As of the last reporting date, Illinois gas, electric and water companies have spent more than \$2 billion dollars with Illinois-based minority, women and veteran owned businesses.

“Illinois’ five largest regulated utilities have reported measurable increases in diversity spend and procurement since 2014. In 2018, approximately 100 Illinois utilities submitted annual supplier diversity reports. Reporting these critical metrics provides a solid foundation toward identifying and removing barriers for these underrepresented groups,” Oliva added.

The NARUC Subcommittee on Supplier and Workforce Diversity was established in 2009 as the *Subcommittee on Utility Marketplace Access Partnership*. However, the subcommittee’s name changed in 2017 to better describe its mission to promote inclusion in the utility supply market.

Commissioner Oliva was appointed to the Illinois Commerce Commission by Governor Bruce Rauner and unanimously confirmed by the Illinois Senate in 2017. She earned a JD from Loyola University School of Law and a BA from DePaul University. Commissioner Oliva’s additional leadership roles include serving as a member of the NARUC Committee on Critical Infrastructure, the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Advisory Council and the Financial Research Institute (FRI) Advisory Board, and representing Illinois on the Organization of MISO States (OMS) Board of Directors. She is also a mentor for the International Confederation of Energy Regulators (ICER) 2018 Mentoring Program.

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#### ***About the Illinois Commerce Commission***

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a quasi-judicial body made up of five Commissioners. Through its Public Utility Program, the Commission oversees the provision of adequate, reliable, efficient and safe utility services at the least possible cost to Illinois citizens served by electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and sewer public utility companies. Through its Transportation Regulatory Program, the Commission oversees public safety and consumer protection programs with regard to intrastate commercial motor carriers of general freight, household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses and repossession agencies. The Commission’s Rail Safety Program also inspects and regulates the general safety of railroad tracks, facilities and equipment in the state.

To learn more about the Commission, its offices and bureaus, click [here](#). If you are a consumer who needs help resolving a utility dispute call 800-524-0795 or file an online complaint [here](#). For a complaint related to transportation, call 217-782-6448.

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