



Illinois Commerce Commission

NEWS

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ICC Commissioner Maria S. Bocanegra Appointed Co-Vice Chair of the NARUC Committee on Water

Chicago...At the 131st Annual Meeting and Education Conference of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners in San Antonio, Texas, last week, NARUC Past President Nick Wagner appointed Illinois Commerce Commissioner Maria S. Bocanegra as Co-Vice Chair of the Committee on Water.

"I am looking forward to the excitement and enthusiasm Commissioner Bocanegra will bring to the water committee," said Wagner. "The committee has a crucial role in educating our members and others on the importance water plays in our lives and the leadership team of the committee, as well as the members, will be well-served by her addition."

The NARUC Committee on Water aims to increase awareness and understanding about the 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 agencies and stakeholder groups, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Association of Water Companies and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators.

"Water sustains every aspect of our lives – from hydration and hygiene to agriculture and innovative water power technologies. We must continue to work closely with our water utilities and stakeholders to ensure we are both conserving and optimizing the treatment and use our water and water systems. I'm honored to take on the role of co-vice chair and looking forward to working with my colleagues on these issues," said Bocanegra.

Bocanegra was appointed to the ICC by Governor JB Pritzker in April to a four-year term and confirmed by the Illinois Senate in May. An accomplished and well-respected attorney, she has prior public service experience in both Democratic and Republican administrations. She previously served as Arbitrator at the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission and held the Public Seat on the Labor Advisory Board for the Illinois Department of Labor. She also formerly worked as an attorney with Katz Friedman, where she handled workers' compensation and personal injury claims.

"Commissioner Bocanegra's appointment to this committee gives Illinois a seat at the table for these important discussions," said ICC Chairman Carrie Zalewski. "A clean water supply is our most valuable resource. It's critical for all levels of government to work together and share best practices to ensure clean drinking water is free from contaminants."

Commissioner Bocanegra earned her Juris Doctor from DePaul University College of Law and her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Quincy University. She is fluent in Spanish and is the first in her family to obtain a college degree.

NARUC is a non-profit organization dedicated to representing the state public service commissions who regulate the utilities that provide essential services such as energy, telecommunications, power, water and transportation. NARUC's members have an obligation to ensure the establishment and maintenance of utility services as may be required by law, and to ensure that such services are provided at rates and conditions that are fair, reasonable and nondiscriminatory for all consumers.

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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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