

# **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES**

## **2022 MID-YEAR MEETING**

**Indianapolis, IN**

**Bios and Headshots**

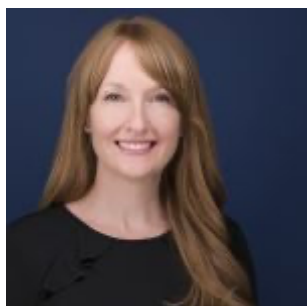


**Chris Ayers**  
**Executive Director**  
**North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff**

Christopher J. Ayers has served as Executive Director of the North Carolina Utilities Commission Public Staff since July 1, 2013 and currently serves as President of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA). The Public Staff represents the using and consuming public and investigates electric, gas, water, wastewater, and transportation matters before the North Carolina Utilities Commission. Prior to joining the Public Staff, he practiced law in Raleigh, North Carolina with the law firm of Poyner Spruill LLP from June 2009 to July 2013 and Hunton & Williams LLP from August 2003 to June 2009. He served a two-year term on the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission from July 2011 through June 2013.

Mr. Ayers serves on the Consumer Advocates for the PJM States Board of Directors, Department of Energy Electricity Advisory Committee, Critical Consumer Issues Forum Executive Committee, Financial Research Institute Advisory Board, Keystone Energy Board, New Mexico State University Center for Public Utilities Advisory Council, and is Chairman of the State Employees Credit Union Board of Directors.

Mr. Ayers earned his undergraduate degree from Duke University and received his Juris Doctor with Honors from the University of North Carolina. He resides in Apex, North Carolina with his wife Rebecca.



**April Ballou**  
**General Counsel & Vice President of State Regulatory Affairs**  
**National Association of Water Companies**

Ballou brings to NAWC deep experience in utility regulation, previously serving as a legal advisor to NAWC CEO and President Robert Powelson while he was a Commissioner at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Ballou began her legal career as an Attorney-Advisor in the Energy Markets Division of FERC's Office of the General Counsel.

In addition to her experience at the federal level, Ballou possesses extensive knowledge of state utility issues from her time at the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PAPUC) where she worked on a variety of regulatory matters under then-Chairman Powelson's leadership. Ballou co-authored a number of National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Water Committee resolutions and

was involved in the implementation of Act 11 of 2012, which among other things, permitted combined revenue requirements for water and wastewater utilities.

Ballou has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Virginia and a law degree from Washington & Lee University School of Law.



**Daniel Bausch**  
**Project Director, APPRISE**

Daniel Bausch is a Project Director with APPRISE, a nonprofit research institute in Princeton, New Jersey that specializes in energy program evaluation and policy research. For 20 years, APPRISE has conducted research on low-income home energy needs and completed program impact and market assessments for utility companies, state agencies, and the federal government. Mr. Bausch has ten years of experience conducting analyses of energy affordability and insecurity for LMI households. He currently oversees the completion of annual LIHEAP data reports for HHS, manages APPRISE's technical assistance efforts assisting LIHEAP grantees with performance measurement, and conducts data analysis on household energy trends.



**Michele Beck**  
**Director, Utah Office of Consumer Services**

Michele Beck has served as Director of the Utah Office of Consumer Services since January 2007. In this position, she represents and advocates on behalf of Utah's residential, small commercial, and irrigator consumers of public utilities. Ms. Beck also represents the end-use sector as a Class 4 representative to the Member Advisory Committee of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC.) Ms. Beck has been a member of the Executive Committee of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates since 2009, and is a previous treasurer of that organization. Previous to her work as the consumer advocate in Utah, Ms. Beck worked for over a decade in various positions in the electric industry. Ms. Beck received her undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University, where she studied political science and economics, and pursued graduate studies in applied economics at the University of Minnesota.



**Timothy C. Burdis**  
**Senior Manager, State Policy Solutions**  
**PJM Interconnection**

A professional with nearly two decades of experience at PJM, Burdis works with PJM states on the interaction between wholesale and retail electric policies. As senior manager of state policy solutions, Burdis manages a team of professionals who endeavor to harmonize emerging state electricity policies with wholesale market design and transmission system planning policies. His organization specifically focuses on: offshore wind development; clean energy development; resource adequacy evolution; grid modernization; and, grid security maintenance.

Before his current post, Burdis served as the business operations manager to PJM's General Counsel / Senior Vice President of Law, Compliance and External Relations. Here he managed a portfolio on matters relating to corporate governance, regulatory filings, development of policy and messaging, and long-term corporate strategy.

Prior, Burdis served as manager of policy analysis & strategy, managing a team of economists focused on the outreach and strategy development for state government engagement; focusing on policy assessment, market design and transmission planning. Additionally, he managed PJM's engagement with the Organization of PJM States, Inc. (OPSI) and its interaction with the company's Executive Team and Board of Managers.

Burdis started his career as an engineer working in PJM's markets and operations divisions. He is pursuing his degree at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He holds a Master of Science in Engineering from West Virginia University and a Bachelor of Science from Lebanon Valley College.



**Peter Cappers**  
**Staff Scientist, Electricity Markets and Policy Department**  
**Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory**

Peter Cappers is a Staff Scientist and Strategic Advisor to the Electricity Markets and Policy Department at Berkeley Lab. For over 20 years, Peter has conducted research and provided technical assistance to territorial, state, federal, and international regulators and policymakers on electric utility regulatory and business models, pricing and rate design, demand response, renewable energy, and energy efficiency market and policy issues. Mr. Cappers received a B.A. from Syracuse University in Mathematics and Economics, and a M.S. from Cornell University in Applied Economics.



**Brian Caudill**  
**Managing Director, Government Affairs and Public Policy**  
**American Gas Association (AGA)**

Brian Caudill is Managing Director, Governmental Affairs and Public Policy for the American Gas Association (AGA). An experienced government relations professional, Caudill advocates on gas utility policy priorities, notably low income energy assistance, pipeline safety and security, and infrastructure development before the U.S. Congress and federal agencies.

Prior to AGA, Caudill spent 8 years with the National Propane Gas Association as Director of Legislative Affairs and 6 years in the auto industry with the Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) as Director of Government and Public Affairs.

Caudill began his career as a Professional Staff Member with the U.S. House of Representative's Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. He holds a Masters in Public Policy from George Washington University and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Bucknell University.



**Mark C. Christie**  
**Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

Commissioner Mark C. Christie took office on January 4, 2021, after having been nominated by President Trump in July 2020 and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on November 30, 2020.

Immediately before joining FERC, Commissioner Christie was the Chairman of the Virginia State Corporation Commission (Virginia SCC), on which he served for nearly 17 years. He was elected to the Virginia SCC, which regulates utilities, insurance and banking, three times by the Virginia legislature on

bipartisan votes.

During Commissioner Christie's service as a state regulator, he was elected president of the Organization of PJM States, Inc. (OPSI), an organization of utility regulators representing the 13 states and the District of Columbia which participate in the PJM transmission and markets organization. He served for more than a decade on the OPSI governing board. Commissioner Christie also served as president of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (MACRUC), a regional chapter of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).

Commissioner Christie taught regulatory law for a decade as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Virginia School of Law and constitutional law and government for 20 years in a doctoral program at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Commissioner Christie is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Wake Forest University, where he earned *Phi Beta Kappa* and degrees in History and English. He earned his law degree at Georgetown, where he completed a summer clerkship after his first year in the FERC Office of General Counsel, which was then housed in the old building on North Capitol Street. He is a graduate of the public schools of Welch, West Virginia, where he grew up. Commissioner Christie served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. Semper Fi.



**Patrick M. Cicero, Esquire**  
**Consumer Advocate**  
**Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate**

Patrick was appointed as Pennsylvania Consumer Advocate by Attorney General Josh Shapiro on December 13, 2021 and was confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate on June 7, 2022. [The Office of Consumer Advocate \(OCA\)](#) is a state agency that represents the interests of Pennsylvania utility consumers before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, federal regulatory agencies, and state and federal courts. The OCA was created by the Pennsylvania General Assembly in 1976 and is an independent office within the Office of Attorney General.

Immediately prior to his tenure as Consumer Advocate, Patrick served as the Executive Director of the [Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc.](#), (PLAN, Inc.) where he provided strategic leadership and direction to PLAN, Inc.'s activities and oversaw the advocacy, fundraising, and management of the coordinated network of independent legal aid organizations that deliver civil legal aid to low-income Pennsylvanians and victims of domestic violence.

Prior to his role at PLAN, Inc., Patrick was the Executive Director of the [Pennsylvania Utility Law Project \(PULP\)](#), a specialized legal aid office that provides advocacy, training, and representation on energy and



utility matters affecting low-income Pennsylvanians. Patrick worked at PULP for 9 years. Patrick also worked as a staff attorney for 5 years at [MidPenn Legal Services](#) in Harrisburg where he led their consumer unit and focused on consumer and housing issues, and served as a judicial law clerk to the Hon. Sylvia H. Rambo, United States District Court Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania for 3.5 years.

Patrick also frequently serves as an adjunct professor at Messiah University. He received his J.D. from Temple University Beasley School of Law in 2002, and his B.A. from Messiah College (now University) in 1999. Patrick lives in Mechanicsburg with his wife Helena, their two children, and his in-laws.



**Adam Cooper**  
**Managing Director, Customer Solutions**  
**Edison Electric Institute**

Adam Cooper is Managing Director, Customer Solutions at Edison Electric Institute. Mr. Cooper frequently publishes articles and issue briefs that assess how technology, public policy, and customer expectations are shaping an increasingly clean, customer-centric, and innovative electric power sector. Recent research efforts address how electric companies are using data and technology to personalize residential customer solutions, deliver 100% carbon-free energy solutions for corporate customers, and tailor solutions and services to meet the needs of low-to-moderate income customers.

Prior to joining Edison Electric Institute, Mr. Cooper worked at the Center for Automotive Research, the White House Office of Management and Budget's Energy Branch, and Regional Economic Models, Inc. Mr. Cooper is also the Executive Director of the Institute for Electric Innovation. He previously served on the Board of Directors for the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance and the Executive Leadership Group for the State Energy Efficiency Action Network. Mr. Cooper holds a Masters in Public Policy from the University of Michigan and a B.A. in Economics and History from Brandeis University.



**David E. Dismukes, Ph.D.**  
**Professor, Executive Director & Director of Policy Analysis,**  
**Center for Energy Studies, Louisiana State University**  
**Baton Rouge, Louisiana**

David E. Dismukes is a Professor, Executive Director, and Director of Policy Analysis at the Center for Energy Studies, Louisiana State University. He also serves as a Professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences, and as the Director of the Coastal Marine Institute, both of which are in the College of the Coast and the Environment at LSU.

David's research interests are related to the analysis of economic, statistical, and public policy issues in energy and natural resources. Over the past 34 years, he has worked in consulting, academia, and government service.

David has been on the LSU faculty for 27 years and has led research efforts on energy, economic, and environmental/natural resource-related topics. He speaks regularly to professional, trade, and civic associations on important energy issues, trends, and topics. He serves in numerous advisory positions including serving on the National Petroleum Council, a federally chartered advisory arm to the U.S. Secretary of Energy.

Dr. Dismukes received his M.S. and Ph.D. in economics from the Florida State University.



**Julia Friedman**  
**Director of Regulatory Affairs**  
**Opower Oracle Utilities,**

Ms. Friedman leads the company's regulatory strategy in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions of the country. She works to ensure that behavioral energy resources and customer education and engagement are integral parts of state and utility decarbonization, energy management, and affordability plans. Prior to joining Opower, Julia served as a Senior Policy Manager for the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance. She began her career in the energy sector in Washington, DC where she held various positions at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and the National Association of State Energy Officials. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago (go Maroons, says no one) and a graduate degree in city and regional planning from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.



**Rachel Gold**  
**Principal, RMI Carbon-Free Electricity Program**

Rachel Gold is a Principal in RMI's Carbon-Free Electricity Program, where she manages the team's work on utility business models and regulation. Before RMI, Rachel was the Utilities Program Director at ACEEE, where she launched the *Climate-Forward Efficiency Initiative* to realign energy efficiency with the climate challenge and the *Leading with Equity Initiative* to embed equity metrics in ACEEE's Scorecards. Earlier in her career, Rachel was on the regulatory affairs team at Opower, and a graduate fellow at the California Public Utilities Commission.



**Jason T. Gray**  
**Partner, Duncan & Allen LLP**  
**Washington, D.C.**

Mr. Gray is a partner with Duncan & Allen LLP. For over 15 years, he has focused on representing consumer advocates, large wholesale customers, and state agencies in a variety of energy-regulatory proceedings before FERC, state commissions, and state and federal courts.



**Mike Haugh**  
**Director of Analytical Services**  
**Ohio Consumers' Counsel Office**

Mike has over 27 years of experience in different roles in the energy industry, including twelve years advocating for Ohio residential utility consumers at the Ohio Consumers' Counsel. His work has been focused on wholesale and retail energy markets but has been known to dabble in traditional ratemaking. He has advocated for consumers at FERC, state regulatory commissions, state legislatures and PJM, on a wide variety of energy issues. Mike holds a bachelor's degree in business from The Ohio State University and spent two years as a Senior Fellow with the R Street Institute.



**Fritz Hirst**  
**Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs**  
**North American Electric Reliability Corporation**

Mr. Hirst represents NERC before the United States Congress, executive branch agencies, and supporting NERC's mission with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. In these roles, Fritz works closely with federal and state policymakers and provides strategic counsel to NERC's business units and senior leadership.

Prior to joining NERC in 2014, Fritz served for twelve years as Director of Federal Affairs for TECO Energy, Inc. At TECO, Fritz developed and implemented strategies to achieve policy outcomes from Congress and executive branch agencies. Fritz provided strategic counsel to TECO businesses and senior executive management. As TECO's principal representative in Washington, DC, Fritz also directed and executed TECO's political programs.

Before joining the private sector, Fritz was a senior staff member in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving as Legislative Director and the principal energy and environment policy advisor to a member of the House Energy & Commerce Committee. In this role, Fritz supervised the Capitol Hill staff, directed and implemented the member's legislative agenda and strategic initiatives.

Early in his career, Fritz was an account executive for a leading public affairs firm in New Jersey specializing in energy and environmental policy. Fritz holds a bachelor's degree in economics and French from Gettysburg College and a master's degree in political science from American University.



**Jeffrey A. Hughes**  
**Commissioner**  
**North Carolina Public Utilities Commission**

Commissioner Jeffrey A. Hughes was appointed to the Utilities Commission by Governor Cooper for a term commencing July 1, 2019 and expiring June 30, 2025. Commissioner Hughes joins the Commission after having been with the UNC School of Government since 2002. He has more than 25 years of experience assisting communities in addressing finance and policy challenges related to the provision of environmental services and programs.

Hughes is the author of numerous reports, guides, and articles on environmental finance and environmental policy analysis subjects. He has worked with a range of state and national organizations that focus on utility and environmental issues. He is an active member of Council of Infrastructure Finance Authorities (CIFA) and the American Water Works Association (AWWA). Hughes was the director of the Environmental Finance Center at the School of Government.

His research and teaching interests include service pricing, economic regulation, and public finance. He was named Albert and Gladys Hall Coates Distinguished Term Lecturer for 2012 - 2014. Prior to joining the university, Hughes worked as a finance specialist for RTI International where he managed utility finance and governance projects throughout Central Europe and Africa including a yearlong position as an infrastructure finance advisor to the Polish government. Hughes also worked briefly as a utility director for a small rural community in North Carolina. He earned a master's degree in environmental engineering from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a bachelor's degree in engineering from Duke University.



**Christopher G. Irwin**  
**Program Manager, Advanced Grid R&D**  
**Office of Electricity, US Department of Energy**

Christopher Irwin has worked as program manager at the Department of Energy, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability since 2009. During that time, he has had the opportunity to manage and oversee just over \$1.5B in grid modernization projects. Mr. Irwin has seen some of the top utilities in the country, from very large to very small, tackle technology, integration and business challenges necessary to bring about the Smart Grid.

Mr. Irwin leads DOE's Smart Grid standards and interoperability efforts, working alongside NIST, FERC and other federal agencies in the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel and other forums. He founded DOE's participation in the Federal Government's Green Button Data Access Initiative to empower customers with improved access to their own energy data, and is also involved in State and Federal regulatory developments, and policy aspects of consumer level issues.



**Katrina Metzler,**  
**Executive Director**  
**National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition**

Katrina Metzler is the Executive Director of the National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC), a leading organization in the fields of public policy and advocacy for energy and poverty issues. Members of the organization include utilities, non-profit organizations, energy assistance programs, trade associations and tribal organizations. NEUAC currently serves more than 200 member organizations that span the nation. The organization bridges the gap between states, social service organizations and government to empower them to work together and learn from each other in times of energy and poverty crisis.



**Michael Moody**  
**Division Chief, Special Litigation Division,**  
**Michigan Department of the Attorney General**

Michael was appointed an assistant attorney general with the Michigan Department of Attorney General in October of 1995. Prior to accepting the appointment, he worked at the Michigan Court of Appeals. At the Attorney General's Office, Michael handled criminal prosecution and employment discrimination for a few years before joining the Special Litigation Division which handles the utility consumer advocacy for the state as well as special assignments by the Attorney General such as his appointment by then Governor Synder as the State Public Administrator for eight years that he held concurrently with his position in the Special Litigation Division. He has litigated utility cases at the Attorney General's Office for over 20+ years and has been the Division Chief for over 6 years.





**Susan Mora-Schrader**  
**Director, Federal Policy and Agency Relations**  
**Exelon – Government Relations and Public Policy**  
**Organization**

As Director Federal Policy and Agency Relations in Exelon's Government Relations and Public Policy Organization, Susan provides strategic national energy policy direction for Exelon's six electric utilities serving over 10 million customers in some of the most progressive clean energy and climate policy jurisdictions in the nation. In this role, she strives to harmonize national positions taken with jurisdictional priorities and business strategies in response to legislative and regulatory actions like the issuance of FERC Order 2222 and implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. Prior to joining Exelon, Susan served as the primary interface with the U.S. Congress, White House, federal agencies and national industry associations for Pepco Holdings, a company with multiple utilities in the Mid-Atlantic region. Issues of particular emphasis in her lobbying portfolio included critical infrastructure cyber and physical security, event response and recovery, grid resilience, and smart grid functionality. Susan spent a number of years as a public affairs consultant focused on assisting clients in their outreach to Congress and a dozen years lobbying across the country at the state and local levels for a variety of businesses and trade associations.



**Joseph Paladino**  
**Senior Advisor**  
**Office of Electricity, US Department of Energy**

Mr. Paladino has worked for most of his career in the advancement and commercialization of technology to address energy and environmental issues. His efforts in both private and public organizations have focused on waste management, energy efficiency, and electric infrastructure. His current focus is to work with regulators and utilities to incorporate grid modernization and resilience considerations into the grid planning process.

Mr. Paladino has an A.B. in Biology from Middlebury College and an M.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. He also holds a patent for a design for a low-level radioactive waste disposal facility.



**Joseph Pereira**  
**Deputy Director**  
**Colorado Office of the Utility Consumer Counsel**

Joseph is the Deputy Director of the Colorado Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate where he oversees office operations, strategy, and outreach to the state's utility consumers. Previous to this role, Joseph served as Regulatory Director for the Citizen's Utility Board of Minnesota. Joseph served as an Director at the Colorado Energy Office in the Office of Governor John W. Hickenlooper. In his role, he oversaw regulatory and governmental affairs, policy development and implementation, program administration and initiative launch related to energy efficiency and renewable energy. Joseph led the office's efforts related to creating access pathways for all Coloradans to access renewable energy and ensure their homes are efficient and comfortable. He served as a Governor appointed commissioner to the Colorado Commission on Low-Income Energy Assistance. He also served on the executive board of

the National Association for State Community Service Programs. Currently, he serves on the U.S. State Department's Clean Energy Finance Task Force working to assist the Indian government in meeting its renewable energy goals.

Joseph received his bachelor's degree from Metropolitan State University and conducted his graduate work at the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy at the University of Delaware. He has also obtained regulatory focused education at the Institute of Public Utilities at Michigan State University.



**Willie L. Phillips**  
**Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)**

Commissioner Willie L. Phillips was nominated to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by President Biden. He was confirmed to the post by the United States Senate on November 16, 2021. He most recently served as the Chairman of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia, named to that role in 2018. He served on the Commission since 2014. He is an experienced regulatory attorney combining nearly 20 years of legal expertise in public and private practice. He has an extensive background in the areas of public utility regulation, bulk power system reliability, and corporate governance.

Prior to being appointed to the DCPSC, Mr. Phillips served as Assistant General Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), in Washington, D.C. Before joining NERC, he also worked for two law firms, where he advised clients on energy regulatory compliance and policy matters. Mr. Phillips has also served on the boards of several organizations, including the board of directors for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and the Organization of PJM States (OPSI). He also has served as president of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (MACRUC), and he has held leadership roles on several advisory councils, including the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Advisory Council.

Mr. Phillips has a *Juris Doctor* from Howard University School of Law, and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Montevallo. He lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife and two children.



**Gregory J. Poulos**  
**Executive Director**  
**Consumer Advocates of the PJM States, Inc.**

Greg Poulos has been the executive director for the Consumer Advocates of the PJM States, Inc. (CAPS) since April, 2017. Established in 2013, CAPS is a nonprofit organization whose members include state advocate offices in the 13 PJM states and the District of Columbia. As a whole, the CAPS members represent over 65-million consumers throughout the PJM footprint. As the executive director of CAPS, Greg coordinates the efforts of the member offices, stays active in the PJM stakeholder process, and monitors relevant proceedings at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to ensure that the prices consumers pay for reliable, wholesale electric service are reasonable.

Prior to joining CAPS, Greg spent over six years at EnerNOC as a member of the Regulatory Affairs team. While at EnerNOC, Greg regularly represented the company at public utility commissions throughout the Midwest. He also interacted with many regional transmission organizations including

PJM, Inc., the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) and the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO). Greg earned his undergraduate degree in Political Science from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He received his Juris Doctorate with from the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.



**Joseph W. Rogers**  
**Assistant Attorney General, Massachusetts Office of**  
**Ratepayer Advocacy**

Joseph Rogers is an Assistant Attorney General in the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office of Ratepayer Advocacy. The Office discharges the Attorney General's responsibilities as the statutory representative of Massachusetts consumers of gas, electric and telephone utility service. In performing this work, the Attorney General's office appears on behalf of consumers in proceedings before the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Federal

Communications Commission.

Mr. Rogers is the Chair of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) Natural Gas Committee. He has been employed by the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General since 1992. Mr. Rogers received his J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law in 1981 and his B.A. *magna cum laude* from Iona College in 1978. Division Chief from October 2001 to March 2007. He was the Assistant Consumer Advocate of the State of New Hampshire from 1985 to 1992. Prior to that, he was in private practice in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.



**Danielle Sass Byrnett**  
**Senior Director, Center for Partnerships & Innovation**  
**National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners**  
**(NARUC)**

Danielle Sass Byrnett is Senior Director of the Center for Partnerships & Innovation (CPI) at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). She leads this technical assistance team focused on identifying emerging challenges and connecting the 54 state public utility commissions with expertise and strategies to navigate their complex decision-making. NARUC CPI builds relationships, develops resources, and delivers training in areas ranging from energy efficiency and distributed energy resources to comprehensive electricity planning to natural gas infrastructure modernization to cybersecurity and more. Ms. Sass Byrnett joined NARUC after nearly 15 years at the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and in consulting roles where she supported other state energy policy makers with their clean energy strategies. She holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from Duke University, and a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Swarthmore College.



**Kristen Siegele**  
**Director of Government Relations**  
**Edison Electric Institute**

Kristen Siegele is the Director of Government Relations handling all tax and financial issues at Edison Electric Institute (EEI). She previously worked six years in the U.S. Senate, most recently in Senator Mike Crapo's (R-ID) office where she was the Legislative Assistant on all energy, transportation and infrastructure issues, and was a shared employee of the Senate Finance Committee where she advised on tax issues. She has an undergraduate

degree in petroleum engineering and is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a specialization in finance from New York University (NYU).



**Karen H. Stachowski**  
**Senior Assistant Attorney General, Consumer Advocate**  
**Division**  
**Office of Tennessee Attorney General**

Karen is an Assistant Attorney General with the Tennessee Office of the Attorney General, Division of Consumer Protection and Advocate. In this role, she focuses on proceedings before the Tennessee Public Utility Commission (TPUC), which is responsible for regulating Tennessee's investor-owned utility companies. The Consumer Advocate seeks to enforce laws applicable to public utilities, to remove barriers to competition in public utilities markets, and to seek

a healthy balance between regulation, competition, and the public interest. It participates in regulatory proceedings before the Tennessee Public Utility Commission and monitors complaints filed against various utilities in the state.

Karen began her legal career with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation where she held various titles and job responsibilities including Deputy Commissioner of Environment, Assistant Commissioner, Managing Legal Counsel and Deputy General Counsel. She also previously worked in the Attorney General's Office in the Law Enforcement and Prosecution Division.

Karen is a graduate of Mississippi University for Women, where she majored in Biology. She attended law school at the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis.

Karen is currently the Chair to the Water Committee of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA). She is a member of the Advisory Board for the Financial Research Institute at the University of Missouri. Karen is also a member of the Tennessee Bar Association, the American Water Works Association, and the Energy Bar Association.





**David Switzer**  
**Assistant Professor, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs**  
**University of Missouri**

David Switzer is an Assistant Professor in the Truman School of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Missouri. His work focused on water utility compliance and rates in the United States, exploring how water policy implementation and development is determined by the environmental, demographic, and political context.



**Mark Wolfe**  
**Executive Director**  
**National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA)**

As Executive Director of the National Energy Assistance Directors Association (NEADA), leads the state low-income energy directors and represents their interests before Congress. Mark is an economist and nationally recognized leading public policy expert on energy affordability and efficiency programs and strategies to help lower income families adapt to the costs associated with climate change. He is also an op-ed contributor to the CNN and The Hill on environmental justice issues, specifically the intersection of energy, housing, and public health and is a key source for related stories in the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg News, NPR and others as well as a frequent guest on NPR and various other media outlets. He also serves as a guest lecturer on environmental social-justice issues at Yale University and George Mason University.



**Samantha Zuhlke**  
**Assistant Professor, School of Planning and Public Affairs**  
**University of Iowa.**

Samantha applies novel methods of spatial analysis to investigate important problems in public policy, public administration, and environmental politics. Her current research examines how partisan politics shape the US nonprofit sector.