Representative Pat Garofalo
Minnesota House of Representatives
Co-Chair of CSG’s Energy and Environment Public Policy Committee

State Representative Pat Garofalo has been recognized as a leading voice on energy issues and ensuring the continued affordability and reliability of Minnesota's energy grid. As the current chair of the House Job Growth and Energy Affordability Committee, he has fought to grow good-paying Minnesota jobs and keep energy bills affordable for Minnesota families.

Representative Garofalo served as the Chair of the House Education Finance Committee from 2011-2012, and is currently a member of the powerful Minnesota Committee on Ways and Means which all fiscal bills must pass through before reaching the house floor. He also serves as a member of the Tax Committees, the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee, and the Greater Minnesota Economic and Workforce Development and Policy Committee.

Pat has been honored by Politics in Minnesota for special recognition as a 2006 Freshman Legislator of the Year. More recently, Pat followed in the footsteps of Gov. Tim Pawlenty and Congressman Erik Paulsen by being selected to the ACYPL Program (American Council of Young Political Leaders).

Pat was first elected to the legislature in 2004, receiving the highest percentage vote of any first time candidate during that election.

Pat is a lifelong resident of the area having grown up in Lakeville, graduating from Rosemount High School in 1989 and Mankato State University in 1994. Pat and his wife Julie live in Farmington with their two young children.

Pat is a consultant working as a network and voice engineer. Julie (Rohloff) Garofalo is a kindergarten teacher in the Farmington schools. The Garofalo family is a member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Farmington.
Dave Witte
Senior Vice President
General Manager, IHS Chemical

Based in Houston, David H. Witte is senior vice president at IHS and general manager of IHS Chemical, a leading global provider of information and insight and consulting services to the global chemical, petrochemical and refining industries. Dave has P&L responsibility for the Chemical Business line and manages a global team of over 300 chemical experts delivering information and insights to the chemical related industries.

During a career spanning nearly 30 years in the refining and chemical industry, Dave has garnered deep experience across a broad spectrum of chemical and hydrocarbon value chains covering a wide array of financial, strategic, technical and commercial issues. Before his appointment to head IHS Chemical, Dave was vice president and global head of chemical consulting at IHS. In that capacity, he managed the consulting services and provided strategic guidance to a diverse global client base covering the energy/chemical spectrum.

Before joining IHS, Dave served as executive vice president of business advisory services at Chemical Market Associates Inc. (CMAI), a leading provider of chemical information and insight that was acquired by IHS in 2011. He also served on CMAI’s board of directors.

During his career at CMAI, Witte also served in other leadership roles of increasing responsibility, including vice president of strategy and marketing, managing director of CMAI Asia, and global business director and founder of CMAI global fibers and feedstock service. Dave also held previous roles in CMAI’s aromatics consulting service as an expert on the polyester value chain.

Prior to joining CMAI in 1996, Dave was employed by Chevron Corporation and Chevron Chemical, with technical and commercial roles in refining and chemicals. He also holds working patents for Chevron’s proprietary Aromax® technology. Dave earned a bachelor of science in chemical engineering from Louisiana State University and 1986 and was recruited by Ethyl Corporation, where he spent several years in process and project engineering roles working in the area of bromine chemical processing.

Witte also received a certificate in financial planning from the University of Houston and Strategic Planning from the Wharton School of Business. He is a frequent author and speaker on the chemical industry and chemical markets.

Melissa Hockstad
Vice President, Petrochemicals
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers

Melissa Hockstad’s responsibilities include oversight of various petrochemical committees, organization of the International Petrochemical Conference, and providing support for addressing legislative, regulatory and communications issues impacting the petrochemicals membership. She has been with the association since October 2013.
Prior to joining AFPM she was Vice President – Science, Technology and Regulatory Affairs at SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association. While there she served as SPI’s Chief Science and Technology Officer, Executive Director of its Organic Peroxide and Bioplastics Divisions, organization lead for code- and standards-setting matters and oversaw its Regulatory and Industry Affairs teams.

She previously held positions at the Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates (SOCMA) where she served as Performance Improvement Director as well as at Basell Polyolefins (now LyondellBasell) where she was a Senior Engineer.

Melissa received a M.S. in Materials Science and Engineering from the Pennsylvania State University and a B.S. in Engineering Science from the University of Virginia.

Jim Telljohann
Vice President, Corporate Planning & Development
Chevron Phillips Chemical Company

Jim Telljohann is vice president of corporate planning and development for Chevron Phillips Chemical.

Previously, he served as general manager of Global Business Development. Prior to that, Telljohann served as general manager of Aromatics and Styrenics and before that, he served as general manager of the Styrenics business.

Telljohann came to Chevron Phillips Chemical from the parent company Chevron Corporation when the joint venture was formed in 2000. He joined CPChem as the finance manager for Aromatics and Styrenics.

Telljohann started his career with PPG Industries, where he served as an operations engineer, environmental engineer and supply and logistics supervisor. In 1998, he started working at Chevron’s Richmond chemical plant as a production supervisor, and then as a product manager in San Ramon. He transferred to Houston with Chevron Chemical in 1992 as a business analyst in High Density Polyethylene (HDPE).

Telljohann earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from The Ohio State University in 1981 and earned a Master’s Degree in Business Administration in from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio in 1986.
Kyle Rogers
Vice President of Governmental Relations
American Gas Association

Kyle Rogers serves as Vice President of Government Relations for the American Gas Association. In this capacity, Kyle is responsible for managing AGA’s government relations goals and programs, with a growing focus on state level advocacy including governors, state legislatures and public utility commissioners. Kyle also represents the association before the U.S. Congress, administrative agencies of the federal government and key policymakers. In this role he advises the association and its membership on the impact of proposed legislation, determines its appropriate response and designs advocacy strategy to achieve the industry’s legislative policy goals.

Prior to joining AGA, Kyle served as a Director of Government Relations for the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA), the Washington D.C.-based national, non-profit association that serves as the unifying organization for all components of the U.S. travel industry. Kyle has also worked on various education and immigration related issues, having worked both as a consultant and Director of Government Relations for national grassroots’ organizations concentrating on linguistic and minority related matters.

Kyle has a BA degree in History from Erskine College in Due West, South Carolina.

---

Bob Russell
Public Utility Rates and Tariffs
Manager
Kentucky Public Service Commission

Bob Russell is the Manager of the Revenue Requirement Branch at the Kentucky Public Service Commission, where he has worked since 2010. Prior to joining the Kentucky Public Service Commission, Russell spent 25 years at the Kentucky Power Company, an operating unit of American Electric Power. While at KPCo, Russell spent his last ten years working in the Regulatory Services department. In this role, Russell calculated factors for monthly filings with the Kentucky Public Service Commission, such as the Fuel Adjustment Clause, the Off System Sales Clause, and the Environmental Surcharge.

Prior to working at KPCo, Russell spent more than 11 years at the Inland Gas Company, a small wholesale of natural gas and part of the Columbia Gas System, Inc. In this role, Russell was primarily responsible for owned asset accounting.

Russell holds a Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Accounting and a Masters of Business Administration, both from Morehead State University.
Roland Goodman
Manager, Upstream Standards
American Petroleum Institute

Roland is the Manager of Upstream standards for the American Petroleum Institute in Washington, D.C. Roland’s group is responsible for staffing 14 committees that maintain approximately 350 standards covering various types of exploration and production equipment and drilling and production operations. Roland has been with API for 21 years and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the University of Southern California.

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

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 School 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 27 years, he has worked in consulting, academia, and government service.

David has been on the LSU faculty for twenty years and has led a number of the Center’s research efforts on energy, economic, and natural resource-related topics. He speaks regularly to professional, trade, and civic associations on important energy issues, trends, and topics.

Dr. Dismukes received his M.S. and Ph.D. in economics from the Florida State University.
Pamela Witmer
Commissioner
Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission

Pamela A. Witmer took the oath of office as a Pennsylvania Public Utility Commissioner on June 30, 2011. She was nominated to serve as Commissioner by Gov. Tom Corbett on June 7, 2011, and unanimously confirmed by the Senate on June 27, 2011. Commissioner Witmer’s term will expire April 1, 2016.

In February 2015, she was asked to serve on the Advisory Council for the North American Energy Standards Board. Witmer was also appointed to serve on the Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council of the Federal Communications Commission and currently serves as an Eastern Interconnection States’ Planning Council representative to the Eastern Interconnection Planning Council’s Stakeholder Steering Committee.

In her confirmation hearing remarks, Witmer promised she would be a “strong, independent Commissioner, thinker and decision-maker on behalf of Pennsylvania’s consumers.”

Witmer most recently led the energy and environment practice for Harrisburg-based Bravo Group, a governmental and public relations firm. She also recently served on the Corbett Transition Team’s Energy & Environment Committee.

From 2000 to 2007, she was President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Chemical Industry Council, a trade association. She formerly served in the Department of Environmental Protection under Gov. Tom Ridge as the lead legislative liaison, where she successfully steered legislation through the General Assembly to create the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. She also previously worked as a research analyst for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

In 2013, Commissioner Witmer was named as a trustee for Mansfield University. Commissioner Witmer has served as a member of Women in Pennsylvania Government Relations and the Pennsylvania Association for Government Relations, and has been involved with the Historical Society of East Hanover Township, the YMCA Youth and Government Program, and the Escape Center for Domestic Violence.

Witmer earned a bachelor’s degree in public service from the Pennsylvania State University.

A native of Altoona in Western Pennsylvania, Commissioner Witmer resides in Camp Hill, Cumberland County.
Chris Coleman

Senior Director, State Affairs
America’s Natural Gas Alliance

Chris Coleman is the Senior Director of State Affairs at America’s Natural Gas Alliance (ANGA). In this role, Chris leads ANGA’s state legislative and regulatory outreach to governors, state legislators, attorneys general and county officials on the tremendous benefits that clean, abundant and American natural gas can offer our communities.

As the organization’s lead advocate for state initiatives, Chris travels the country communicating ANGA’s policy positions and developing relationships with key allies and third party organizations. Chris helps manage ANGA’s extensive state network and craft targeted state legislative strategies to protect the continued responsible development of natural gas and to promote its growing use in the power generation and transportation sectors.

Prior to joining ANGA, Chris was Director of Government Affairs at the National Confectioners Association, where he managed coalitions, grassroots outreach and advocacy at both the federal and state levels on issues including food safety, commodity pricing and taxes.

Before joining the private sector, Chris spent five years with the National Council of State Legislators (NCSL) as a policy specialist. There, Chris drove priorities pertaining to taxation, communications, financial services and interstate commerce. He also served as NCSL’s liaison to Republican legislative organizations.

Chris began his career on Capitol Hill in the office of Senator Lincoln Chafee, working to advance key legislative priorities for his home state of Rhode Island.

Chris received a master’s degree in public administration from George Washington University and holds a bachelor’s degree in policy studies from Dickinson College.
Mike Fessler
Director, Regulatory Affairs
UGI Utilities

Mike Fessler is the Director of Regulatory Affairs at UGI Utilities. Fessler has worked at UGI since 1981 and has held positions ranging from marketing, sales, operations, business development, and governmental affairs.

Fessler is active in his community and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Lancaster County Economic Development Corp. Board and the Capital Region Economic Development Board. He is also the Past Chairman of the Annual Boy Scouts Distinguished Citizen of the Year Dinner and is a graduate of the Leadership Lancaster Executive Series.

Fessler received a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Business Administration from Kings College. He is married to Denise Fessler. Denise and Mike have two children, Matthew and Megan, and two grandchildren, Dylan and Avery.

Nick D’Andrea
Director of State Government Affairs
UPS Air Group

As UPS Air Group Director of State Government Affairs, Nick D’Andrea has responsibility for public policy that affects all UPS entities in Kentucky, including UPS Airlines and Worldport. He also advocates for issues related to UPS’s alternative fuels and sustainability strategy.

Nick joined UPS in 2013 and brings a wealth of experience in government relations and public affairs to his role. He previously served as Assistant Director of Governmental Affairs for the University of Louisville, where he helped formulate the legislative agenda for the university. Nick also worked as Director of Government Affairs for the state’s Passport Health Plan, where he directed government relations, communications and media relations, focusing on brand and image.

Nick has also worked with the American Diabetes Association, Kentucky Representative Anne Northup and the Louisville Metro Council.

A native of Richwood, Ky., Nick holds a bachelor’s degree in political science with a concentration in law and public policy, and a Master’s in Business Administration, both from the University of Louisville.

Nick serves on the board of directors for the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, Brightside, and Ronald McDonald House Charities Kentuckiana.