2016 The Fundamentals of Natural Gas Policy Academy

Speaker Information

Rep. Pat Garofalo
Minneapolis House of Representatives
Co-chair, CSG Energy and Environment Public Policy Committee

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. Garofalo also serves as the co-chair of the CSG Energy and Environment Public Policy Committee.

Kyle Rogers
Vice president of governmental relations
American Gas Association

Rogers is responsible for managing the American Gas Association’s government relations goals and programs, with a growing focus on state-level advocacy including governors, state legislatures and public utility commissioners. Rogers 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.
Diane Burman
Commissioner
New York State Public Service Commission

As a commissioner for the New York State Public Service Commission, Burman helps to regulate the state’s electric, gas, steam, telecommunications and water utilities. Burman also serves on the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners—or NARUC–Gas and Critical Infrastructure committees. She also serves on the NARUC Special Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety and was appointed by the NARUC president in January 2015 to the Gas Technology Institute Public Interest Advisory Committee. She is the vice chair for the NARUC Gas Committee and is the chair of the NARUC-Department of Energy Natural Gas Infrastructure Modernization Planning Initiative.

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

Dismukes has been on the Louisiana State University faculty for 20 years and has led a number of the Center for Energy Studies’ 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. In addition to his work at the Center for Energy Studies, 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.
Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner
North Dakota Public Service Commission
Fedorchak heads the pipeline siting, rail and consumer affairs portfolios for the North Dakota Public Service Commission. She has led efforts to enhance the commission’s pipeline reclamation program, developed and received legislative approval for a state rail safety program, and has been a tireless advocate for reliable, affordable utility services. In addition, Fedorchak reinstated the commission’s consumer affairs portfolio to provide greater public awareness, participation and transparency in the work of the PSC.

Glenn Vaad
Commissioner
Colorado Public Utilities Commission
Vaad was appointed to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission in December 2013 by Gov. John Hickenlooper and began his service in January 2014. Vaad brings more than 25 years of public service experience in a variety of elected and appointed positions to the commission, including service on the Mead Town Board, the Mead Sanitation Board, the St. Vrain Valley Board of Education, the Weld County Planning and Zoning Commission, the Weld County Board of Commissioners, and as a state representative from House District 48.
Brandon Presley  
*Commissioner*  
Mississippi Public Utilities Commission

Presley was elected public service commissioner for the Northern District of Mississippi in 2007 at age 30, making him the youngest commissioner ever elected in Mississippi. Prior to his election to the Public Service Commission, he served as mayor of Nettleton, Mississippi, from 2001 to 2007.

Presley served as president of the Southeastern Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and currently serves as chairman of the Consumer Affairs Committee for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and on the association’s Natural Gas Committee.

Jaz Tunnell  
*Senior manager, government relations*  
Piedmont Natural Gas

Tunnell works on issue advocacy in the state of North Carolina at Piedmont Natural Gas. Prior to this role, Tunnell served as Piedmont’s community relations manager, where he developed, managed and executed outreach strategies by aligning ideas, objectives and resources that resulted in successful philanthropic programs and improved community relations.
Barry Worthington
*Executive director*
U.S. Energy Association

Worthington directs the U.S. Energy Association’s domestic and international activities. He has served executive director since September 1988. Worthington has written extensively on energy and environmental matters, and addresses numerous conferences on national and international energy issues. He also currently serves as a board member of the National Energy Foundation, Energy Law Foundation and the Advisory Board of the Electric Power Research Institute.

Nick Wagner
*Board member*
Iowa Utilities Board

Wagner began his service on the Iowa Utilities Board in May 2013. He serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, where he also sits on the Committee on Gas, co-chairs the Washington Action Program, and serves as co-vice chair of the Committee on Critical Infrastructure. Wagner also serves on the Board of Directors and as treasurer for Smart Grid Interoperability Panel 2.0. Wagner previously served in the Iowa House of Representatives from 2008 to 2012 as ranking member and chair of the Local Government Committee and as vice chair of the Appropriations Committee.
Justin J. Kringstad
Director
North Dakota Pipeline Authority

Kringstad was appointed by the North Dakota Industrial Commission as director of the North Dakota Pipeline Authority in August 2008. Kringstad received a degree in geological engineering from the University of North Dakota, where he currently serves on the Harold Hamm School of Geology and Geological Engineering Advisory Committee. Kringstad serves on Gov. Jack Dalrymple’s Western North Dakota Energy Development Information Exchange Council and has an advisory role on the EmPower North Dakota commission. Prior to his time with the Pipeline Authority, Kringstad worked with the North Dakota Oil & Gas Division, the Energy and Environmental Research Center, the North Dakota Geological Survey and Terra Resources.

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Ron Day
Director, Government and Public Affairs
Tesoro Corporation

Day has spent the past 30 years in the oil refining industry with companies such as Amoco, BP, Koch Industries, and currently Tesoro Corporation. The majority of Day’s career has been spent in roles associated with EH&S regulatory compliance. In his current role, Day conducts stakeholder engagement throughout the state of North Dakota. Day graduated with a Bachelor’s Degree in Chemistry and Physics from Chadron State College in Nebraska.