

2025 WCPSC Speaker Bios (Alpha Order)



Sam Ackley is Chief Operating Officer of Hunter Communications, Sam drives the strategic direction of Hunter's technology, regulatory, compliance, project management, and construction teams. Sam has 20 years of experience in the telecommunications industry. In addition to his role at Hunter, he serves as a President of the Board for the Oregon Joint Use Association, where he has represented Competitive Local Exchange Carriers throughout the State of Oregon for the past decade. Sam is also regularly involved in Northwest Telecommunications Association activity and committee work and serves on the Board of Directors for the Britt Music & Arts Festival, based in Jacksonville, Oregon.



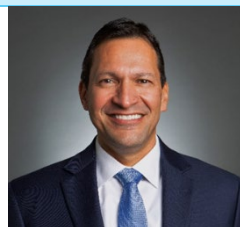
Jim Alberts is responsible for operations across the five islands served by Hawaiian Electric. Operations includes the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, grid operation, electrification of transportation, supply chain and safety and security.

At Hawaiian Electric, he previously served as senior vice president of Business Development & Strategic Planning and senior vice president of Customer Service. In these roles, Alberts oversaw the areas of business development, company strategy and implementation, and contracting for gridscale renewable resources.

Alberts joined Hawaiian Electric in 2012, coming to the company with more than 20 years of utility experience at Kansas City Power & Light (KCP&L) and Aquila. During his career in the energy industry, Alberts has focused on delivering and improving value for customers. While at KCP&L and Aquila, he led the customer teams to be recognized top performers. He also led the sustainable resource strategy team while at KCP&L. Alberts became a certified Lean Six Sigma Deployment Champion and Black Belt while at Aquila, producing significant improvements and savings for customers.

Alberts serves as a board member of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii and the Aloha United Way.

Alberts holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Minnesota State University, Mankato and a master's degree in Business Administration from Drake University.



Camilo Amezcuita has been the Vice President and General Manager of Williams - Northwest Pipeline since November 2019. In his role, Camilo leads a highly talented team that oversees all commercial, business development, rates, regulatory and operational activities for Northwest Pipeline. Since joining Williams in 1993, Camilo has held various leadership roles in Engineering, Operations, Gas Control, Commercial Services and Project Execution. Camilo sits on the boards of the Northwest Gas Association, Western Energy Institute, United Way of Greater Houston, and Junior Achievement of SE Texas. He is also

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an active committee member for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, ReVision and Girls, Inc.

Camilo was born in Bogotá, Colombia and graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. Camilo lives in Houston, TX, married for 29 years and has two daughters ages 19 and 23.



Leo R. Asuncion, Jr. was appointed to the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission in 2019 and was named Chairperson on July 1, 2022. Prior to his appointment to the HPUC, Chairperson Asuncion was a Planning Program Administrator at the Office of Planning, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and from 2013 to 2018 served as Director of the Office where he was responsible for the overall management, development, and implementation of state policy, and coordination and planning support to state and county agencies. He also served as Planning Program Manager of the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program from 2011 to 2013.

Leo has over 30 years of extensive experience in planning, policy analysis, and management throughout Hawaii and the Pacific Region through previous positions with Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc., SSFM International, Inc. the Hawaii State Judiciary, and the State Land Use Commission. He has also chaired or been a member of numerous governmental boards, commissions, task forces and councils during his professional career, and has served as President of the American Planning Association (2021-2022), and Chair of the Coastal States Organization (2016-2018). He is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and Lambda Alpha International (LAI).

Chairperson Asuncion holds a Master in Business Administration degree from Hawaii Pacific University, and a Master in Urban and Regional Planning and Bachelor of Arts in Political Science degrees from the University of Hawaii-Manoa.



Commissioner Matthew Baker was [appointed](#) to the CPUC by Governor Gavin Newsom on Feb. 16, 2024.

Previously, Commissioner Baker had worked as the California Public Utilities Commission's Director of the Public Advocates Office and Deputy Secretary of Energy at the California Natural Resources Agency. He was also a Commissioner for the Colorado Public Utilities Commission from 2008 to 2012. In addition to his roles in state government, he was previously a Program Officer for the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and worked in many capacities with the consumer advocate Public Interest Research Group beginning in 1987. Commissioner Baker holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Pennsylvania State University.

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Christina (Christy) Baril is the Director of Water Quality and Environmental Compliance at California American Water, serving roughly 700,000 Californians. In her role, Christy oversees the Water Quality and Environmental Compliance department throughout the state, ensuring drinking water, wastewater, and environmental regulatory compliance. Having worked at California American Water for over 10 years in roles ranging from Operations, Rates and Regulatory, Project Management, and Water Quality, Christy's comprehensive background includes experience in wildfire and emergency response, system acquisitions, capital project planning, assessing treatment technologies, and environmental compliance.



Chris Barley was raised at the Oregon coast where he chose to return when he co-founded Oregon Aerial Construction in 2007. He began his telecommunications career in 1999, after six years of active-duty service in the U.S. Army. Over the last 26+ years, Chris has worked nationwide to master everything from construction/maintenance of copper splicing, installation/repair, and aerial line construction/maintenance, with a special passion for adherence to NESC compliance standards. He continues to grow and share his knowledge of these standards by serving as the Publicity & Education Committee Chair with the Oregon Joint Use Association. Chris's unwavering commitment to quality, people and integrity fostered Oregon Aerial Construction's remarkable growth in the Pacific Northwest, where they were proudly acquired by Quanta Services in 2024.



Nellie Barnard provides legal ethics and risk management advice to lawyers, law firms, law students, and in-house legal departments. I also represent Oregon and Washington lawyers in attorney discipline matters and character and fitness proceedings, including on appeal. With a deep background in complex business disputes, I guide my clients toward successful resolutions from the inception of a case through appeal.



Michele Beck is the Director of the Utah Office of Consumer Services. Serving as Utah's utility consumer advocate since 2007, she represents and advocates on behalf of Utah's residential and small commercial consumers of public utilities. In this position, she oversees all staff and analytical work of the office. Ms. Beck's other current professional responsibilities include: end use representative on the Member Advisory Committee of WECC Executive Committee of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates, consumer advocate sector representative on the Formation Committee of the West-Wide Governance Pathways Initiative, Smart Energy Power Alliance's Research Advisory Council, and the Critical Consumers Issues Forum Advisory Committee. Prior to her work in Utah, Ms. Beck worked for over a decade in various positions in the electric industry in the Midwest.

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Tim Belden-- Over his 30-year career, Tim has held positions at Lawrence Berkely National Labs, The Williams Company, Portland General Electric, Enron, and UBS. For the last fifteen years he has led Energy GPS' consulting practice. Tim has developed an uncanny ability to synthesize complex problems into the key factors that drive the outcome and articulate those insights in a way that is clear and actionable. Much of Tim's work focuses on identifying the appropriate data and modeling techniques that help utilities, investors, developers, asset owners, and policy makers understand the value and risk of a wide range of assets including renewables, battery storage, natural gas plants, hydro, and others. Tim received his master's degree in Public Policy from the University of California at Berkeley and currently lives with his family in Portland.



Chairman Eric Blank was appointed Chairman of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission on December 11, 2020, by Governor Jared Polis for a four-year term effective January 12, 2021. His term expires in January of 2025. Blank, a lawyer and economist from Boulder, has worked on electric utility and clean energy issues for over 35 years in a diverse range of entrepreneurial, business, and non-profit settings.

In 2000, Blank co-founded a pioneering national renewable energy development company, which he ran until three years ago. Blank helped commercialize first wind and then later solar technologies by building some of the earliest and largest clean energy projects outside of California. All told, he has developed 2,000 MW of operating wind and solar projects, representing \$4 billion in invested capital.

Blank spent most of the 1990s leading the energy work of a non-profit environmental group, now called Western Resource Advocates. Through PUC interventions in six western states, he helped develop some of the first policies that made utility clean energy investments initially feasible and ultimately cost-effective. Prior to that, Blank was a consultant preparing utility capacity expansion and dispatch modeling studies.

Blank holds a law degree from Yale Law School and a master's in economics from the London School of Economics.

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Peter Cappers is a Staff Scientist and Strategic Advisor to the Electricity Markets and Policy Department at Berkeley Lab. For almost 25 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.



Jeffery Carlson is the Safety & Compliance Manager for Consumers Power Inc. Before joining CPI in 2021 he worked for Oregon OSHA as a technical specialist for 3 years. Prior to OSHA he was an Operational Weather Forecaster for the U.S. Air Force for a decade and supported numerous contingency operations including a deployment to Afghanistan with the 421st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron.

Jeffery has leveraged his experiences to help CPI operate and maintain its power system to the highest standard of safety and reliability. He does this by managing key elements of the CPI inspection, joint use, and wildfire mitigation programs. By managing these programs together, he is able to ensure the power system is safe for the public, ready to respond to wildfire threats, and maintain resiliency against all seasonal hazards.

Jeffery holds degrees in Meteorology, Communications, and Business Administration. He also provides consultation services as the principal of Carlson Utility Loss Control LLC.



Chairman 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. Chairman Christie was named by President Trump to be Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on January 20, 2025.

Immediately before joining FERC, Chairman 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 Chairman 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. Chairman 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).

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Chairman 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.

Chairman 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.

Chairman Christie served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. Semper Fi.



Ben Corwin is VP, Business Operations at EarthGrid PBC, where he leads commercialization efforts for EarthGrid's plasma excavating and tunneling technologies. Ben began his career in economic consulting, working on a number of energy, natural resource, and construction cases, before leading marketing, analytics, and sales for several construction startups. Ben has also held data and growth roles at Coinbase and Remitly, scaling fintech products globally.

An ex-NCAA skier and accomplished ultrarunner, Ben enjoys spending free time exploring mountains around the west with his partner and yellow lab, Blewett.



Megan Decker currently works as an independent consultant under the name Staircase Advisory. Most recently, Decker was a member of the Oregon Public Utility Commission from 2017 to 2025, serving as Chair from 2018. Previously, she worked in various roles as a lawyer representing land developers, the Port of Portland, and Renewable Northwest, a regional renewable energy advocacy organization. As a Commissioner, Decker held leadership roles related to Western regional electricity coordination, serving from 2019 to 2025 as Co-Chair of the West's Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation. Decker is a graduate of Stanford University and University of Washington School of Law.



Erifili Draklellis is the Manager of Community Engagement & Co-Benefits on RMI's Electricity team, where she supports electric utilities, state agencies, and community-based organizations in designing and implementing inclusive engagement strategies for the energy transition. Her work focuses on ensuring that communities can help shape and share in the benefits of clean energy infrastructure. She brings experience supporting both utilities and regulators in navigating evolving community expectations and supporting regulation that builds more effective public engagement.

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Julien Dumoulin-Smith is a No. 1 double-ranked Institutional Investor magazine analyst in both Utilities & Alternative/Clean Energy and was recently inducted into the II "Hall of Fame." The team was most recently ranked #2 across all equity research franchises across all sectors in the 2023 survey. Julien earned his undergrad degree in Applied Math as well as his MBA from Columbia University. Julien brings over 15 years of equity research experience to Jefferies.



Patrick Ehrbar is the Director of Regulatory Affairs for Avista and has served in this capacity since 2017. In this role, he leads a team responsible for general rate cases, other cost recovery proceedings, and regulatory policy matters in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon. Prior to this role, he served in several capacities within Regulatory Affairs from 2007-2017, with responsibilities for electric and natural gas rate design, line extension policy, decoupling, power cost and natural gas rate adjustments, customer usage and revenue analysis, and tariff administration, among other things. Prior to his work on regulatory matters, he served as a key account customer executive (2000-2007), and led certain energy efficiency programs from 1997-2000. Patrick graduated from Gonzaga University both in 1995 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, and again in 1997 with a Master of Business Administration degree.



Russell Elliott - President/CEO Siskiyou Telephone

More than 20 years of telecommunications industry experience

1999-2013 **President - Brainstorm Internet** (Western Colorado CLEC) - Grew company to over 14,000 customers across rural Colorado and Northern New Mexico

2013-2016 **Chief Operating Officer - Parelli** (World-wide operations) - Managed offices in Switzerland, England, Australia and US

2016-2018 **Wyoming Broadband Director** (Stood up the Governor's office of broadband) - Built team, grant program and assisted in developing legislation to drive broadband across the state of Wyoming

2018-2021 **Washington Broadband Director** (Stood up Governor's office of broadband) - Built team, grant program and legislation. Successfully solicited over \$200M in funding and won the first NTIA state grant for \$30M for a number of statewide infrastructure projects.

2021-Current **President/CEO - Siskiyou Telephone Company** - (Northern CA Incumbent LEC) - Overall management of regulated and unregulated operations.

BA - Management from Fort Lewis College (Durango, CO) in 1989

MBA - Management from Colorado State University (Fort Collins, CO) in 1991

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Tziporah Feldman is the Policy and Research Director for Scenic America, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving and enhancing the scenic beauty of the United States. Tziporah has a master's degree in ecology and evolution from Stony Brook University and integrates an expansive cross-disciplinary background in conservation science, science communication, geographic informatics, and participatory action research.

At Scenic America, Tziporah leads national efforts to promote the undergrounding of overhead utility wires to improve grid resiliency, reduce wildfire risk, minimize vegetation removal, enable clean energy development, and protect scenic landscapes. A Cincinnati native, she now lives in Pittsburgh, PA with her calico cat, Tosha, and her 95-pound Great Pyrenees–Pit Bull mix, Teddy.



Rich Glick is a Principal with GQS New Energy Strategies – a consulting firm co-owned with two former FERC colleagues -- Pamela Quinlan and Liz Salerno. He previously served a five-year term as a Commissioner with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), where he chaired the Commission between January 21, 2021 and January 3, 2023. As Chairman, Rich initiated a number of key initiatives, including proposals to reform the planning and cost allocation process for electric transmission; expedite and enhance the generator interconnection process; improve the operation of organized electric capacity markets; and protect the reliability of the electric grid against weather-related, cybersecurity, and physical attack threats.

Prior to serving at FERC, Rich was the General Counsel for the Democrats on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, serving as a senior policy advisor on numerous issues, including electricity and renewable energy. Prior to that, he was Vice President of Government Affairs for Iberdrola's renewable energy, natural gas storage, and electric and gas utility businesses in the United States. He ran the Company's Washington, D.C. office and was responsible for developing and implementing the U.S. businesses' federal legislative and regulatory policy advocacy strategies.

Rich previously served as a Director of Government Affairs for PPM Energy and prior to that he held the same position with PacifiCorp. He also served as a Senior Policy Advisor to U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, and before that was the Legislative Director and Chief Counsel to U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers, of Arkansas. From 1988-1992 Rich was an Associate with the law firm of Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson and Hand.

He is a graduate of George Washington University and Georgetown Law. He and his wife Erin live in Alexandria, Virginia with their son.

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Spencer Gray leads NIPPC's efforts to create a more competitive and nimble electric power system in the West. NIPPC is a trade association of independent power producers and competitive marketers active in the Pacific Northwest and Rocky Mountain regions. Before joining NIPPC, Spencer served in senior capacities in the U.S. Senate on several congressional staffs, including as a legislative director and a member of the professional staff of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He has also provided analytical expertise to public-interest organizations and the financial sector.



Max Greene is a partner in the law firm Sanger Greene PC, where he represents clients on matters related to the clean energy transition in the Northwest and provides advice to nonprofits, trade associations, and electricity generators, among others. Max previously served as Deputy Director of the clean energy nonprofit Renewable Northwest and, before that, as a Staff Attorney at the environmental nonprofit Conservation Law Foundation.



Jay Griffin is the former Chair of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (HPUC). During his term, he oversaw numerous regulatory proceedings to implement Hawaii's clean energy goals, including reform of competitive bidding, integration of distributed energy resources (DERs) and virtual power plants (VPPs), integrated grid planning, and performance-based regulation. Prior to his appointment, Jay served as the HPUC's Chief of Policy and Research and an assistant researcher at the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute. Jay currently advises regulatory commissions and startup companies implementing state policy goals on climate and resilience.



Leon Grumbo has worked the last 9 years for the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC), starting as a Utility Analysis and now as the Electric Safety Program Manager, of the Safety, Reliability and Security Division. Current role at the PUC is managing the PUC's electric safety team. This team audits Electric and Communications operators throughout the state of Oregon to make sure utility construction and maintenance is compliant with the current Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR), specifically division 24 (Inspection and correction and vegetation management), division 28 (Pole and conduit attachments), section 300 (Wildfire Mitigation Plans) and National Electric Safety Code (NESC). Prior to the PUC my background includes more than 20 years of experience performing overhead utility infrastructure inspections on over 200,000 utility poles, focused on NESC construction, pole strength assessment and life extending treatments.

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John Hairston was named BPA administrator and CEO in January 2021, is responsible for managing the nonprofit federal power administration headquartered in Portland, Oregon. BPA markets wholesale, carbon-free power from federally owned Columbia River Basin hydroelectric dams and the region's one nuclear plant, serving more than 140 electric utilities that distribute power to millions of consumers. Bonneville also operates most of the high-voltage power grid across the Pacific Northwest, providing service to more than 300 transmission customers across Washington, Oregon, Idaho, western Montana and parts of California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming.

Hairston, who joined BPA in 1991, previously served as chief operating officer and as chief administrative officer. Hairston began his career at BPA as an economist in the Rates Forecasting and Rate Design organizations. He served in various positions in Energy Efficiency until 2006 when he was named BPA's first chief compliance officer, leading the development and implementation of the Compliance and Governance organization to assure agency compliance with regulatory rules and standards.

Hairston holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Southern University. He also has a master's degree in urban studies from Portland State University and a Juris Doctorate from Lewis & Clark Law School.



Elaine Hart, Ph.D. co-founded Sylvan Energy Analytics and leads the company's consulting practice. She brings fifteen years of experience in clean energy system planning, with expertise spanning integrated resource planning, resource adequacy, complex resource valuation, and clean energy policy design and implementation. Dr. Hart has driven innovation in resource planning and decarbonization strategy from within a major investor-owned utility and has advised state agencies, utilities, non-profits, and developers on the challenges and opportunities presented by the transition to cleaner energy systems.



Commissioner John R. Hammond Jr was appointed to his first term with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission by Governor Brad Little in January of 2022.

Prior to being appointed to the Commission, John worked for the Idaho Office of the Attorney General as a Deputy Attorney General and later as the Commission's lead Deputy Attorney General. During his career, John also worked in private practice and was a partner at Fisher Pusch LLP in Boise. John served as a law clerk for the Hon. Terry L. Myers, United States Bankruptcy Judge, District of Idaho and also clerked as the Pro Se Law Clerk for the United States District Court for the District of Idaho.

John earned his Bachelor of Science from the University of Idaho and his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Idaho School of Law.

Commissioner Hammond is on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (NARUC). He is also currently

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the Chair of the Committee on Electricity for NARUC. John also serves as the Vice-Chair on the Body of State Regulators and is that group's representative for the Western Energy Markets Nominating Committee. He also serves also the Vice-Chair on the Markets+ State's Committee.



Ben Hanson is the Vice President of Sales at Pano AI, where he oversees the company's efforts to deliver AI-driven wildfire detection technology to utilities and other critical infrastructure across North America. Ben brings more than 15 years of experience in sales and leadership roles, including senior positions at Medallia and Honeywell, where he led teams focusing on a variety of segments, including telecommunications, utilities, and the Public Sector. With extensive experience driving technology adoption across utility and public sector markets, Ben brings practical insight into how utilities can balance regulatory requirements with innovative solutions to enhance public safety and grid resilience.



Commissioner Darcie L. Houck was appointed to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) by Governor Gavin Newsom on Feb. 9, 2021. She formerly served as Chief Counsel for the California Energy Commission since 2019.

Commissioner Houck was an Administrative Law Judge at the CPUC from 2016 to 2019, a Partner at Fredericks Peebles & Morgan from 2005 to 2016, and Staff Counsel and Policy Advisor at the California Energy Commission from 2000 to 2005.

Commissioner Houck is an expert in nuclear decommissioning, environmental equity, and safety policy. She has an extensive background representing Native American tribes throughout the country on matters involving energy, natural resources, land claims, and water rights, among others.

Commissioner Houck is a member of the California Indian Law Association, California Lawyers Association, Schwartz-Levi Inn of Court, Women Lead and the Association of Women in Water, Energy, and Environment. She earned a law degree from the University of California, where she also earned a Master of Science in community development.

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John Igo, Vice President of Business Development, leads the company's strategic entry into new markets and applications. He joined Mainspring in 2013 to shape the first-generation product requirements, develop key partnerships, and oversee the launch of commercial sales. Prior to joining Mainspring, John led development of utility-scale power generation projects at Invenergy, where he was directly responsible for strategically siting and starting over 1,800 MW of installed capacity. He also led technology evaluation and market entry into solar power project development for the company. John holds a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Kansas, an M.S. in mechanical engineering from Stanford University, and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.



Bob Jenks is the Executive Director of CUB. Bob started working for CUB in 1991, and has participated in nearly every major Oregon Public Utility Commission case since that time, including dozens of cases dealing with utility mergers, rates, resource planning, and climate change. He also regularly represents ratepayers before the Oregon Legislature and at regional forums.

Bob is a native Oregonian, and holds a degree in economics from Willamette University. When not working, Bob enjoys gardening, cooking, and smoking his homegrown tomatoes in his smoker.



Robert S. Kenney is president of Xcel Energy's Colorado Operating Company. Xcel Energy is a Fortune 500 energy company and one of the largest energy providers in the country. Xcel Energy, Colorado is its largest operating company, providing electricity to 1.6 million customers and natural gas service to 1.5 million customers. Robert is responsible for the utility's overall strategic direction and operations, including safety, profit and loss, operational excellence, customer delight, stakeholder engagement, and regulatory and legislative outcomes.

Xcel Energy was the first major United States energy provider to set a bold vision of producing carbon-free electricity by 2050. Robert is privileged to lead the 4000 Colorado co-workers committed to making this vision a reality and powering Colorado's communities with safe, reliable, affordable, and clean energy.

Robert leverages more than 30 years of regulatory, legal, governmental, and public affairs experience to deliver outstanding energy service to the people of Colorado, while maintaining Xcel Energy's unwavering commitment to keeping customer bills low. At the same time, he leads his Colorado team in working with public policy makers, regulators, and community stakeholders to deliver strategic plans and customer programs, which will drive the state's and Xcel Energy's continued leadership in the clean energy transition, including transportation electrification.

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Prior to joining Xcel Energy, Robert served as senior vice president of regulatory and external affairs for Pacific Gas & Electric where he led state and federal regulatory affairs, local government affairs, and community relations and charitable giving. He has had an extensive career in the legal and regulatory sectors, including serving as Chairman of the Missouri Public Service Commission (PSC). He is a nationally recognized leader in public utility law and regulation and public policy development and implementation. Among other significant past experiences, he served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and as President of the Organization of MISO States (OMS).

Prior to his appointment to the Missouri PSC, Robert served as Chief of Staff to the Missouri Attorney General. Previously, Robert was a shareholder at the Polsinelli law firm, where he practiced in the commercial and business litigation practice group.

Robert serves on the Board of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and Cleo Parker Robinson Dance.

Robert holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Hampton University and a law degree from Saint Louis University School of Law.



Scott Kinney is the Vice President of Energy Resources and Integrated Planning at Avista. He has been with Avista since 1999 and has held several senior technical and leadership positions in Transmission and Distribution Planning, System Operations and Energy Supply.

Scott received his Electrical Engineering degree from Gonzaga University and started his career at the Bonneville Power Administration working as a Transmission Planning Engineer, before joining Avista.

Throughout his career Scott has been actively involved in regional reliability coordination and organized market development in the west and has chaired multiple committees in the energy sector including the Western Electricity Coordinating Council Operating Committee, former Northwest Power Pool Operating Committee, and the Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee. Scott has participated in multiple regional organized market development efforts dating back to RTO West in the early 2000s and was actively involved in the development of the Western Resource Adequacy Program.

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Paul Kjellander served as President of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (IPUC), having been appointed to four six-year terms beginning in 1999. He was the longest serving President of the IPUC. He retired from state service and now works as a consultant/senior advisor in the utility sector. His current work includes advanced nuclear energy resource development and capacity building. Kjellander also serves as a senior advisor with Public Utilities Fortnightly and he consults with a variety of utility related clients. He recently joined and chairs the Development Corporation Board for The Western Transmission Consortium.

As a commissioner, Kjellander was a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC) board of directors and executive committee. Kjellander was elected to serve as President of the association in 2020. As NARUC president he established a multiyear conference theme for the association and worked with commissioners at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to create the Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission. His work on the NARUC executive committee set a course to align the association's finances more closely with member services.

During his tenure at NARUC, Kjellander served on the association's Consumer Affairs Committee, the Electricity Committee, and he was appointed as Chair of the Committee on Telecommunications. Additionally, he was as a member of the Subcommittee on Regulatory and Industry Diversity and the Subcommittee on Education and Research.

Kjellander was selected as President of the National Council on Electricity Policy, which is funded by the US Department of Energy and managed by NARUC. He was a board member of the Financial Research Institute and continues to serve on New Mexico State University's Current Issues Advisory Board. Past service included membership on the Federal Communications Commission's 706 Joint Board, the North American Numbering Council, the Advisory Council of the Electric Power Research Institute, and he was named chairman of the FCC's Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations. Kjellander also held a leadership role as Vice Chairman of the Northern Tier Transmission Group.

Kjellander's regulatory service was briefly interrupted in 2007 when Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter tasked him with creating Idaho's Office of Energy Resources (OER). This cabinet level position played a significant role in establishing the state's energy policy direction.

During his time at OER, which is now known as the Office of Energy and Mineral Resources, Kjellander created an aggressive energy efficiency program funded through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Kjellander established the Idaho Strategic Energy Alliance (ISEA) and remained a member of that group until his retirement from state service. He also served on the board of the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO). Kjellander currently chairs the ISEA task force that was organized to create an advanced nuclear strategic framework for Idaho.

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Before joining the commission in 1999, Kjellander was elected to three terms in the Idaho House of Representatives from 1994-1999. As a legislator, Kjellander was assigned to multiple committees, including House State Affairs, Judiciary and Rules, Ways and Means, Local Government, and Transportation. During his final term in office, Kjellander was elected to leadership as Chairman of the House Majority Caucus.

Prior to his legislative service, Kjellander was director of Boise State University's College of Applied Technology Distance Learning, where he earned tenured faculty status. Kjellander also held various positions at Boise State's Radio Network including station manager, director of the Special Projects Unit, and director of News and Public Affairs. As a broadcast journalist, Kjellander received over 30 professional awards for his reporting. He also contributed reports to multiple regional and nationally distributed programs.

Kjellander is also a painter whose work has appeared on magazine and book covers. Most recently he illustrated a book titled "Heroes of the Storms". His paintings also hang in private collections and several pieces from his series "The Legislature at Work" can be found in the Idaho State House.

Kjellander earned undergraduate degrees in communications, psychology, and art from Muskingum University in Ohio, and earned a master's degree in telecommunications from Ohio University.

Kjellander and his wife Radelle have three children...a daughter Allison who practices law in Boise and twin sons Skyler and Justus who completed their MBAs and work in Salt Lake City.



Commissioner Naomi U. Kuwaye was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission by Governor David Y. Ige and confirmed by the State Senate beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 20, 2028.

Prior to her appointment to the PUC, Commissioner Kuwaye was an attorney at Ashford & Wriston, LLP where she had practiced since 2012. Previously, Commissioner Kuwaye had also worked for then Honolulu City Councilmember Donna Mercado Kim and practiced law in Oregon and Washington before returning home to Hawaii.

Commissioner Kuwaye earned her juris doctorate and a certificate of environmental and natural resources law from Lewis and Clark Northwestern School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts in journalism and political science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

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Anna Lafoyiannis is the Program Lead of Bulk System Integration of Renewables and Distributed Energy Resources at EPRI. She is part of EPRI's Climate READi leadership team, where she works directly with electricity companies to apply READi's learnings. She has over 16 years of experience in the power system industry, with a focus on reliability, resource adequacy, and market design. Anna holds a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Engineering from the University of Waterloo and a Masters in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, with an emphasis on Sustainable Energy from the University of Toronto.



Ted Lehmann is the VP of Sales and Regulatory Affairs for CMS Energy Advisors, a natural gas marketing firm based in the Pacific Northwest. Ted provides his industrial and commercial end users in the region with customized buying strategies, help in understanding local regulatory impacts, and advocating on customers behalf in Utility Commission rate cases when necessary. He has over 25 years of experience in the industry and counts many of the PNW's best brands/companies as customers. Ted grew up a nomad, living in Germany, Connecticut, Missouri, and London in that order before the age of 18 but returned to the United States to attend Colorado College and eventually receive an MBA from NYU. After leaving New York, Ted moved to the PNW and has stayed put for the past 25 years. Hobbies include; playing the guitar and bass with an instrument collection that far exceeds his talent.



Rick Link, Senior Vice President of Resource Planning and Procurement, has been with PacifiCorp for over 21 years. Mr. Link oversees PacifiCorp's integrated resource plan, which identifies the least-cost mix of resources and transmission investments needed to reliably serve customers over a twenty-year timeframe for customers in six states. Mr. Link also oversees development of PacifiCorp's clean energy plans, as required by state policies in Oregon and Washington. He also oversees a team of professionals that implement resource procurement processes, including the negotiation and administration of resource-specific contracts and quantification of customer benefits and costs associated with a wide range of resource types.



Adam Lowney is a partner with the Portland law firm of McDowell Rackner Gibson PC. His practice focuses on energy law, with an emphasis on providing regulatory, transactional, litigation, and business advice to electric utilities in the West. Adam appeared before regulatory commissions in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming and before the Federal Regulatory Energy Commission. He has represented utilities in matters involving ratemaking, resource planning and procurement, resource siting and development, the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act, generator interconnection reform, and

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implementation of and compliance with various state resource portfolio standards, among other matters. Adam received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Gonzaga University and a Juris Doctor from Lewis and Clark Law School and is a member of the Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming State Bars.



Jennifer Lukins is the Co-Owner and General Manager of Lukins Brothers Water Company in South Lake Tahoe. With over 20 years of experience in water system management, leadership, and strategic planning, she brings deep expertise to the role. A fourth-generation South Lake Tahoe resident, Ms. Lukins assumed management of the company in 2009, becoming the third generation of the Lukins family to lead the business.

Ms. Lukins earned her degree from California State University, Chico in 2004. She holds State of California Distribution Grade 3 and Treatment Grade 2 Operator Certifications, as well as a Water Treatment Plant Operation Specialist Certificate from the Office of Water Programs at California State University, Sacramento.

She currently serves as Chair of the California Water Association (CWA) Small Water Committee, President of the South Tahoe High School Alumni Foundation, and is a past President of Soroptimist International of South Lake Tahoe. In 2019, she was honored with the *Lake Tahoe's Most Remarkable Women: Women to Watch* Award.



Edna Mariñelarena is an Assistant Vice President on the US/Canada Power and Utilities team within the Public, Project, and Infrastructure Finance Group (PPIF) at Moody's Ratings. She manages a diverse portfolio that includes regulated electric, gas, water, and wastewater utilities, as well as interstate natural gas pipelines and power generating companies. Her portfolio includes utilities located in the Pacific Northwest and Southwest.

Edna began her career at Moody's in 2011 in the US Public Finance Group (PFG) Local Government Ratings team, covering municipally owned water, wastewater, and electric distribution utilities primarily in the Southeast and Western states. She holds a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from New York University's Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service and a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies (BIS) in Business and Public Administration and Management from Arizona State University.

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Representative Pam Marsh is currently serving her fifth term as State Representative for House District 5, Southern Jackson County. She currently serves as Chair of the House Committee on Housing and Homelessness, which addresses statewide policy to provide safe, secure, and affordable homes for Oregonians. She is also a member of the House Committee on Climate, Energy and Environment and House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Water, and Natural Resources. Pam's legislative priorities include clean energy development, wildfire recovery, broadband expansion, and solutions to the housing crisis. This session, she is working hard to pass the POWER Act, which would protect residential customers from increased utility costs from data centers, and legislation to address utility wildfire risks.



Pete Marsters is the Market Fundamentals Manager at Fervo. He brings 10 years of experience in the energy and climate space working at the nexus of business, policy, and economics. He has published papers on how states can meet deep decarbonization targets, international shale gas development in China and Mexico, and the potential of carbon removal technologies. His work has been published in the New York Times, Time, Forbes, Vox, and Nature Climate Change, among other publications. Prior to joining Fervo, he worked at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University, the Rhodium Group, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and was a Fulbright Fellow based in China. He holds a MA in Energy and Resources from the University of California-Berkeley and a BS in History from Bates College.



Lauren McCloy is Utility & Regulatory Director with the NW Energy Coalition. Previously, Lauren worked as Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Jay Inslee, Washington State, where she led and managed a broad range of issues in support of the Governor's energy agenda. Prior to serving in that role, Lauren was the Legislative Director for the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC), where she was the commission's liaison to the state Legislature and the Governor's office and was responsible for developing and coordinating the UTC's legislative activities. Lauren was previously a policy advisor at the UTC, where she advised commissioners on energy policy and legislative issues starting in 2014. Before joining the UTC's policy staff, Lauren worked as a Compliance Investigator in the UTC's Consumer Protection Division. She has experience working for the Washington state Senate Ways and Means Committee and several non-profit organizations focused on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and consumer advocacy. Lauren has a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an M.S. in International Development from Tulane University Law School. Lauren also currently serves as Commissioner for Okanogan Public Utility District in Okanogan County, Washington, a position she has held since January 2025.

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Commissioner Nick Myers serves as the Vice Chairman of the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC). He was elected to the Commission in 2022, bringing a background in software engineering, entrepreneurship, and regulatory advocacy following a dispute with a utility company. Upon taking office, Myers' first official act was to open a docket to modernize Arizona's rate-making process, spearheading the Commission's adoption of a Formula Rate Plan Policy in 2024. He has opened formal inquiries into expanding both natural gas infrastructure and nuclear energy generation in Arizona. He has prioritized regulatory stability, the elimination of subsidies, utility wildfire mitigation, and the challenge of data centers and large industrial. Myers serves as Chairman of the Markets+ State Committee, ensuring state interests are embedded in Southwest Power Pool's Markets+, a real-time and day-ahead regional energy market expected to go live in 2027. Vice Chair Myers also serves as Co-Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on Nuclear Energy and is a member of the Committees on Gas and Critical Infrastructure at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).



Elliott J. Nethercutt is the senior director of the state regulatory affairs division at the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) where he supports members on a wide array of industry issues. Previously, he worked at the NARUC, supporting commissions on topics including performance-based ratemaking and resource adequacy. He has also advanced market enhancements at the California ISO, developed reliability assessments at NERC, and supported smart grid deployment and transmission siting efforts at the Department of Energy.



Commissioner Greg Nibert received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of New Mexico in 1980 and received a Juris Doctor degree, cum laude, from Pepperdine University in 1983. He was Editor in Chief of the Pepperdine Law Review for 1982-83. Currently he is a Commissioner on the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission. He was a partner in one of the oldest law firms in New Mexico, Hinkle Shanor LLP, having worked there from 1983 to 2024. He is listed in several legal rating firms and was recognized as one of the top ten energy lawyers in New Mexico. Greg was a frequent speaker and author of papers on oil and gas law topics. Greg is a past President of the Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico and has been active in the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association.

Prior to serving on the PRC, Greg was elected to the New Mexico House of Representatives in 2016 and served House District 59 from 2017 until his appointment to serve in the New Mexico Senate in 2024. Greg was appointed to serve on the Energy Council, where he served on its executive board, the Uniform Law Commission, and graduated from the Legislative Energy Horizons Institute. He served two terms as a County Commissioner in Chaves County, New Mexico from 2006 to 2014.

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Chair Patrick (Pat) O'Connell of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) was appointed to a six-year term starting on January 1, 2023. Patrick is President of SPP's Regional State Committee, sits on WECC's Member Advisory Committee, the FERC-NARUC Current Issues Collaborative, and NARUC's Energy Resources and the Environment Committee. Prior to joining the NMPRC, Patrick worked for Western Resource Advocates, providing leadership to the Clean Energy Team. Before joining Western Resource Advocates, Patrick was a long-tenured employee at the Public Service Company of New Mexico, where he directed PNM's Integrated Resource Planning team, and led natural gas procurement planning efforts for New Mexico Gas Company. Patrick is a registered Professional Civil Engineer, graduated from the University of New Mexico and lives in Albuquerque.



Daryl Osby serves as the Vice President of Emergency Preparedness, Safety, and Security for California Water Services Group (CWSG) that provides high quality, affordable water and wastewater services to more than two million people west of the Mississippi River. CWSG is the third largest publicly traded water utility in the United States that includes subsidiaries in California, Hawaii, New Mexico, Texas and Washington. He coordinates safety programs, emergency response training and operations center activities, risk management training for all team members. Additionally, he assures company-wide compliance with applicable OSHA standards. Furthermore, his responsibilities include the physical security strategy and oversight.

He has accumulated over 38 years of experience in emergency management, leadership, and strategic planning as a member of the Los Angeles County Fire Department, including 11 years as the Fire Chief. He led a team of 5,000 employees and managed a \$1.4 billion annual budget, providing life safety services for over four million residents and commercial businesses in 60 cities and 137 unincorporated communities.

A brief synopsis of his fire service background includes experience as the leader of an incident management team, Chairperson of the Los Angeles County Emergency Preparedness Commission, Chairperson of FIRESCOPE, Homeland Security, and Strategic Planning. He has been a lecturer on a variety of topics related to leadership, emergency preparation and response management.

He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in organizational leadership from Azusa Pacific University. Over the course of his career, he has taken numerous technical and classroom courses, including at Harvard University. Currently, he serves on the boards of One Legacy, a non-profit dedicated to saving lives through organ, eye, and tissue donation, and Special Needs Network, which supports underserved families dealing with developmental disabilities.

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Justin B. Palfreyman is Chief Executive Officer of NW Natural and President and Chief Executive Officer of NW Natural Holdings, effective as of April 1, 2025. From May 2023 to March 2025, Mr. Palfreyman served as President of NW Natural Holdings and NW Natural. He previously served as Senior Vice President, Strategy and Business Development of NW Natural from February 2023 to May 2023, and from 2016 to 2023, he was Vice President, Strategy and Business Development of NW Natural. Before joining NW Natural, he was with Lazard, Freres & Co., a global financial advisory and asset management firm, serving as a Director in Lazard's Power, Energy & Infrastructure Group from 2009 to 2016. In that position, he provided strategic and financial advice to corporations, institutional investors, private equity funds and government clients. Prior to Lazard, Mr. Palfreyman was an associate in the Infrastructure Investment Banking Group at Goldman Sachs in New York. He has also held various positions in finance, strategy and business development at both Apex Learning and Accenture in Seattle, Washington. In addition to serving on the Board of NW Holdings, he also serves on the boards of certain of its subsidiaries including NW Natural, SiEnergy Operating, LLC, NW Natural Renewables Holdings, LLC, NW Natural Water Company, LLC and certain of their respective subsidiaries.

Mr. Palfreyman currently serves as a board member of CASA for Children of Multnomah, Washington, Columbia and Tillamook Counties, having been the past President. Mr. Palfreyman graduated from Pacific Lutheran University with a Bachelor of Business Administration. He also holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from The University of Chicago Booth School of Business and a Master of Public Policy (MPP) from The University of Chicago Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy.



Commissioner Les Perkins was appointed to the Oregon Public Utility Commission by Governor Tina Kotek in February 2024.

Prior to his appointment, Commissioner Perkins represented the rural south end of Hood River County as a Hood River County Commissioner since 2001. While serving as a Commissioner, Perkins represented Hood River County on the board of the Community Renewable Energy Association where he served as Chair. Perkins also served in leadership roles with the Association of Oregon Counties, most recently as Co-Chair of the Natural Resources Legislative Committee, which included energy. Perkins was a longtime member of the Hood River Energy Council which developed an energy plan for Hood River County. Additionally, he gained expertise in energy and water utility management as general manager of the Farmers Irrigation District, which owns and operates two in-conduit hydropower facilities. Commissioner Perkins was also co-founder of Farmers Conservation Alliance, a non-profit focused on finding resource solutions for rural communities, specifically around energy and water.

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Commissioner Perkins holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Lewis and Clark College.



Commissioner Tom Plant was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission on January 13, 2023, by Gov. Jared Polis and confirmed by the Colorado Senate on February 3, 2023. His term expires in January 2027.

From 2011 to 2023, Tom served as Senior Policy Advisor at Colorado State University's Center for the New Energy Economy. During that time, he worked with states around the country helping to develop clean energy policy. During the Ritter Administration from 2007-2011, Plant served as director of the Colorado State Energy Office. He served as a Representative in the Colorado House of Representatives from 1999 through 2006, including two years as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and one year as Chairman of the Joint Budget Committee. While serving in the legislature, Plant was executive director of the nonprofit Center for ReSource Conservation in Boulder, Colorado.

After graduating from Colorado State University, Plant worked as an exploration geologist. Then he joined the Union of Concerned Scientists in its Climate Change Department. At UCS, he explored the causes of global climate change and examined transportation and energy solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Thomas Puttman is the President of NW Natural Water. Headquartered in Portland, Oregon, NW Natural Water is one of the fastest growing investor-owned utility companies in the United States, with over 30 systems in 6 western states. NW Natural Water is part of NW Natural Holding Company, which through its subsidiaries, has been doing business for more than 165 years in the Pacific NW. Mr. Puttman has over 25 years of experience in water, wastewater and recycled water utility investment, development and operations. From expanding the NW Natural Water portfolio through M&A and new utility development to operations and maintenance, capital project delivery, customer service and rate making, he oversees all aspects of the business to ensure safe, reliable and cost-effective utility service. Mr. Puttman earned a BS in Civil Engineering and MS in City and Regional Planning and is a licensed professional civil engineer, certified planner and LEED accredited professional.



Richard Rauschmeier is the Program Manager of the Water Branch of the Public Advocates Office at the California Public Utilities Commission. In his twenty years with the Commission, he has advocated for ratepayers and the public interest in the industries of energy, water, and telecommunications. He has been an expert witness in over fifty proceedings and testified on most aspects of utility regulation, including cost of capital, industry consolidation, and alternative ratemaking. He is the author of *A Practical Guide to Utility Ratemaking* and a member of the NASUCA Water and Accounting and Finance

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Committees. He has a bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University in environmental science and a Master of Science in Finance from Purdue University. Richard, his wife, and three children live in Martinez, California, where he coaches youth lacrosse and repairs antique accordions in his free time.



Commissioner Ann Rendahl was first appointed to serve as a commissioner of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission by Gov. Inslee in December 2014 for a six-year term that ended Jan. 1, 2021. Ann has been reappointed and confirmed to a second six-year term ending Jan. 1, 2027.

Ann serves as the First Vice President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, or NARUC, and serves as a member of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. Ann is also member of the Committees on Water and Critical Infrastructure and was a prior chair of the Committee on Electricity.

Ann serves as a member of the Southwest Power Pool's Markets+ States Committee and has served on the Body of State Regulators for the California ISO's Energy Imbalance Market. Ann also serves as a member of the Electric Power Research Institute's Advisory Council, the Advisory Council of the Center for Public Utilities at New Mexico State University, and the Advisory Board of the University of Missouri's Financial Research Institute.

Prior to being appointed as a commissioner, Ann served as the Director of Policy and Legislation for the UTC. Prior to leading the UTC's Policy and Legislative Affairs Section, she served as the Director of the Administrative Law Division, as an administrative law judge for the UTC, and as an assistant attorney general representing the UTC.

Ann is a graduate of Wellesley College. She received a master's degree in Public Policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley, and her law degree from UC Law San Francisco.



Commissioner John Reynolds was [appointed](#) to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) by Governor Gavin Newsom on Dec. 23, 2021, and reappointed on Dec. 22, 2022.

Commissioner Reynolds has experience in both the public and private sector as an attorney and policy advisor in the energy, telecommunications, transportation, and water industries.

Commissioner Reynolds earned a bachelor's degree from Brown University, and a juris doctor degree from the University of California, San Francisco College of Law, where he graduated magna cum laude.

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Bill Ritter Jr. is a partner at Freestone Strategies and the founder of the Center for the New Energy Economy (CNEE) at Colorado State University, which he established on February 1, 2011 and led until December 2024.

Governor Bill Ritter was elected Colorado's 41st Governor in 2006 and was the District Attorney of Denver from 1993-2005. During his four-year term as Governor, Ritter established Colorado as a national and international leader in clean energy by building a New Energy Economy. After leaving the Governor's Office, Ritter founded the Center for the New Energy Economy at Colorado State University, which works with state and federal policymakers to create clean energy policy throughout the country. Governor Ritter authored a book that was published in 2016 entitled, *Powering Forward – What Everyone Should Know About America's Energy Revolution*.

Governor Ritter is the current Board of Directors chair for The Climate Group North America and former chair of the Board of Directors of the Energy Foundation and currently serves on the Board of Trustees of The Nature Conservancy. Ritter is a member of Blackhorn Venture Capital and serves as an advisor to Green Alpha and Project Canary, among others. Ritter earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Colorado State University (1978) and his law degree from the University of Colorado (1981). With his wife Jeannie, he operated a food distribution and nutrition center in Zambia.



Kim Rush leads NW Natural, the largest natural gas utility in the Pacific Northwest, with 1,200 employees serving about two million people in 140 communities.

Founded in 1859, today NW Natural operates one of the most modern distribution systems in the nation. The company is recognized for award-winning customer satisfaction and championing industry-leading climate solutions for its communities.

Spanning her 26-year career at NW Natural, Rush has held a variety of executive positions including Senior Vice President of Operations, Chief Marketing Officer, and Vice President of Communications. Prior to joining NW Natural, she held leadership positions at Alltel Corporation, and Bank of America Corporation in Chicago, Illinois.

Rush currently serves on the executive committee for the Northwest Gas Association and as a member of the American Gas Association's Leadership Council. Prior board experience includes ONE Future, Western Energy Institute, LifeWorks NW, Greater Portland, Inc., and the Gas Technology Institute's Utilization Technology Development affiliate.

She received a Master of Science in Communications at Northwestern University in Illinois and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications at the University of Iowa.

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Nick Russell is the Chief Operations Officer at Watch Duty, a nonprofit providing real-time public safety information from verified sources. With a passion for technology and a deep commitment to community safety, Nick has merged his experience and knowledge on SDR monitoring, mapping tools, and disaster response automation; cementing his role as a voice in wildfire management and public safety tech. Nick's leadership philosophy is rooted in collaboration, believing that "Together Everyone Achieves More." He fosters environments where teams thrive by valuing diverse perspectives and aligning efforts through clear planning and execution. His mission-driven, team-centered approach ensures Watch Duty remains adaptive, unified, and impact-focused.



Chuck Sams grew up on the Umatilla Indian Reservation where he is enrolled as Walla Walla and Cayuse with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). Most recently he served as the 19th director of the United States National Park Service.

Over his 35 plus years career he has served as Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director for the CTUIR, in addition to Communications Director, Environmental Health & Safety Officer and Planner and Special Sciences Analyst with the Tribes. Other prior positions include, Program Coordinator for the Community Action Program of East Central Oregon; House Manager/Field Supervisor for the City Volunteer Corps of New York; CEO/President, Vice President Programs, Northwest Director for the Earth Conservation/Salmon Corps; Executive Director of the Community Energy Project; Executive Director of the Columbia Slough Watershed Council; the National Director for the Tribal & Native Lands Program of the Trust for Public Land; Executive Director of the Umatilla Tribal Community Foundation; and President/Chief Executive Officer of the Indian Country Conservancy. He received a Master of Legal Studies in Indigenous Peoples Law from the University of Oklahoma School of Law and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, Management, Communications, and Leadership from Concordia University. He is a graduate of the U.S. Navy / Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center 'A' School and subsequently served as an intelligence Specialist with an Attack Squadron, the Joint Intelligence Center Pacific Command, and the Defense Intelligence Agency Headquarters. He and his family live in Pendleton, Oregon.



Scott Schifando serves as Vice President of Operations at ALERTWest, where he oversees the deployment and management of the largest interoperable wildfire detection network in North America. With over 18 years of industry experience, Scott provided key operational input into the design of ALERTWest's advanced camera control platform, which supports more than 1,700 wildfire detection cameras across the Western U.S. and Canada.

He works closely with utilities, public safety agencies, and universities to expand early detection and situational awareness capabilities. Scott also advises on the

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development of ALERTWest's AI-driven wildfire risk modeling platform, which forecasts both real-time and future wildfire threat levels to critical infrastructure. His expertise in camera network design, deployment strategy, and operational scalability has helped utilities and public agencies strengthen wildfire detection, accelerate response times, and improve regional resilience through public-private collaboration.



Branden Sudduth, Vice President of Reliability Planning and Performance Analysis at WECC, leads the organization's technical and analytical functions, overseeing Reliability Modeling and Assessments, Standards Development, Performance Analysis, Event Analysis, and Situation Awareness. In his previous role as Director of Reliability Risk Management, Branden led the strategic direction for WECC's Performance Analysis and Event Analysis/Situation Awareness departments. He actively supported industry stakeholders through the Operating and Market Interface Committees, ensuring alignment and collaboration.

Additionally, with a strong foundation in engineering and management roles within WECC's Reliability Planning department, Branden brings deep expertise in bulk power system modeling and analysis, driving impactful results for the organization.

Branden holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Brigham Young University, a master's in electrical engineering from the University of Idaho, and an MBA from Weber State University.



Nina Suetake is the Deputy Director of Policy for NASUCA. Prior to joining NASUCA in 2024, Nina served for five years as an Assistant Attorney General for the Public Counsel Unit of the Washington State Attorney General's Office, the statutory advocate for residential and small business utility customers in proceedings before the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. Prior to moving to Washington Nina represented utility customers before the California Public Utilities Commission as a staff attorney for The Utility Reform Network (TURN) for over eleven years.



Silvia Tanner is a Senior Energy Policy and Legal Analyst at Multnomah County's Office of Sustainability, where she leads the County's efforts to catalyze a just energy transition. She spent years working to advance clean energy through policy and regulatory advocacy at federal agencies and state utility commissions through the Pacific Northwest. At Multnomah County, Silvia combines that experience with her lived experience and all she learns from community leaders and advocates to advance an energy transition that lifts up, rather than penalizes, vulnerable populations.

A proud Latina and immigrant from Colombia, Silvia has a rich history of service to community. She works to improve the experience of people from systemically excluded backgrounds in the legal and environmental fields through her service

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in various boards and her enthusiastic mentorship. She also serves in the Oregon Department of Energy's Energy Advisory Workgroup and the Energy Trust of Oregon's Board of Directors. Silvia holds a JD from Lewis and Clark Law School and a BA in Economics from Portland State University. She is her happiest when with her family and friends, and enjoys reading, dancing, cooking, and running.



Commissioner Letha Tawney was appointed to the Oregon Public Utility Commission by Governor Kate Brown in June 2018. Now in her second term, Commissioner Tawney represents Oregon on the [Electricity](#) and the [Critical Infrastructure](#) committees for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). She also serves on the Energy Trust of Oregon Board of Directors, as well as the Energy Imbalance Market Board of State Regulators (EIM-BOSR), engaging closely on Western electricity market development in several forums.

Prior to her appointment, Commissioner Tawney was an expert on electric utility business models, state regulation, clean energy development, and large customer buying strategies for World Resources Institute (WRI). As the WRI Polsky Chair for Renewable Energy, she propelled innovation in business and regulatory models in the power sector. Commissioner Tawney has a deep understanding of the constraints and interests driving both utilities and their customers as technology creates large-scale change in the sector.

Commissioner Tawney holds a master's degree of Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School.



Mark Thompson is the Senior Director, State Affairs at Form Energy. At Form Energy, Mark engages with state policy-makers and regulators to help move forward beneficial markets to unlock the value of multi-day energy storage for customers.

Prior to joining Form, Mark was a Commissioner at the Oregon Public Utility Commission between 2019 and 2023 and served to help the state implement new energy policies, and regulate the rates and services of investor-owned electric, natural gas, and water utilities. Previous to that, Mark was a legal practitioner on energy regulatory matters. Mark has experience working in the industry for over 20 years, including as the Director of Rates and Regulatory Affairs at NW Natural, and as Staff Counsel for the Public Power Council, focusing on federal energy supply matters.

Mark holds a degree in Conservation Biology from Brigham Young University, and a Law Degree from Lewis & Clark Law School.

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Commissioner Mary Throne Governor Gordon appointed Mary Throne to the Wyoming Public Service Commission, effective March 1, 2019. He reappointed her in 2021 for a full 6-year term and she served as Chairman from March 2023 to March 2025. Mary continues to serve in leadership roles in the West and at NARUC. A Campbell County, Wyoming native, Mary returned to the state in 1992. Prior to joining the Commission, Mary represented the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division in the Office of the Attorney General and in private practice, she assisted a variety of energy, mineral and business clients with environmental compliance and permitting, industrial siting, and other regulatory issues. For ten years, Mary represented Cheyenne's House District 11 in the Wyoming House of Representatives, serving as Minority Floor Leader for four years.



Kevin Tilden has served in the water industry for more than 25 years. In his various roles, he has overseen community and government relations, public and stakeholder outreach, business development, business performance, conservation and customer service for California and Hawaii American Water.

Kevin also oversees the company's Supplier Diversity mission, which, under his stewardship, became one of the best performers amongst all other utilities in California in terms of dollars spent with registered minority, women, LGBTQ and/or disabled veteran owned businesses. He ushered in the company's Inclusion and Diversity program, which included a complete top-down review of the company's hiring practices, educational programing and general day-to-day work experience to ensure all employees are included, respected, and availed all opportunities for placement and advancement. Under Kevin's leadership California American Water has taken California's Equal Pay Pledge. Kevin also serves as co-chair of American Water's ID&E Executive Council.

Kevin currently serves on the Board of Directors for the California Chamber of Commerce, where he is chair of the Water Committee and part of the Women's Leadership Council. Kevin is also on the California Water Utilities Executive Council and the California American Water Employee Political Action Committee. In the past, Kevin served as chair of the Governance Committee for the California Utilities Diversity Council and served on the boards of the National Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, the California Water Association, and the American Water Charitable Foundation, as well as the Public Affairs Council for the California Chamber of Commerce.

In 2019, Kevin was awarded with the prestigious Pride Honoree award by the California Legislature's LGBT caucus. The recognition came after Kevin has spent his adult life working to advance the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals. In San Diego he has also been recognized as one of "40 Under 40," "50 People to Watch" and San Diego LGBT Pride's Citizen of the Year.

Kevin holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Washington and a Master of Business Administration from Pepperdine University.

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Steven Wellner currently serves as the Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Judy Chang at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission), where he advises her regarding Western wholesale power markets and transmission issues, the Commission's market-based rate and corporate programs, and the Commission's reliability and enforcement work. Since joining FERC in 2012, he has held a number of other positions across the agency, including: (1) from April 2014 through July 2019, as a Legal Advisor and Chief of Staff to former Chairman and Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur; (2) from July 2019 through June 2022, as the Director of the Division of Electric Power Regulation-West, within the Commission's Office of Energy Market Regulation; (3) from June through December 2022, as a Legal Advisor and Chief of Staff to Chairman Rich Glick; (4) in August 2017, as a transition advisor to Chairman Neil Chatterjee; and (5) as an Attorney-Advisor in the Commission's Office of General Counsel. In those various capacities, he has advised agency leadership on virtually every aspect of the Commission's work.

Before coming to FERC in June 2012, he worked in private practice, largely representing competitive power developers. Steven received his J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center in 2007, and graduated in 2002 from Rice University with a double major in history and political science. He lives in the Atlanta area with his wife and two daughters.



Colin A. Yost was first appointed to the Public Utilities Commission on November 1, 2022, by Governor David Y. Ige. Governor Josh Green subsequently re-nominated Commissioner Yost and the State Senate confirmed him for a term ending June 30, 2030.

Prior to his appointment to the PUC, Commissioner Yost partly-owned the Oahu-based renewable energy company RevoluSun, where he served for eight years as Chief Operating Officer and for four years as General Counsel. At RevoluSun, he managed general company activity, directed the commercial projects division and oversaw human resources, legal and regulatory matters. As General Counsel, he helped steer RevoluSun through a rapidly changing policy landscape to become one of the leading residential photovoltaic installers in the nation.

In his legal career before RevoluSun, Commissioner Yost founded the law firm of Cruise & Yost and he also worked as an attorney for the Honolulu firm of Paul Johnson Park & Niles. In these positions, he represented clients in the areas of energy and environmental law, civil litigation, business law, consumer law, civil rights, Native Hawaiian rights, real estate matters and administrative proceedings before the PUC and other administrative agencies.

From 1998-2003, Commissioner Yost served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Financial Fraud/Consumer Protection Section of the Oregon Department of Justice, where he led the State of Oregon's investigation and prosecution of western energy companies, including Enron, Duke Energy and the Williams

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Energy Companies for matters relating to the west coast electricity crisis of 2000-2001 and secured settlement agreements worth \$32 million to the State of Oregon. He also led and resolved the state's investigation of telecommunications company MCI. In 2001, Commissioner Yost received the Oregon Department of Justice's Outstanding Service Award.

Commissioner Yost earned his juris doctorate from Lewis and Clark Northwestern School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts in English and Environmental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania.



Jason Younker is the Associate Vice President and Advisor to the President on Sovereignty and Government-to-Government Relations at the University of Oregon and Chief of the Coquille Indian Tribe. He received his PhD in Anthropology from the University of Oregon (2003) and returned to Oregon after teaching at Rochester Institute of Technology for a decade. Younker received the prestigious Ely S. Parker Award in from the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (2014) for his work with tribal governments and students in higher education. He is the Past-President of the Association of Indigenous Anthropologists and is originally from Charleston, Oregon.



Ellen Zuckerman is an expert in clean energy market and product design, energy efficiency and regulatory policy. She leads a team at Google that is responsible for designing and reforming electricity markets, regulations, and policy in North and South America to support the deployment of clean energy, as well as working with partners to develop new, innovative clean energy products. Her work has helped make Google's data centers the cleanest and most efficient industrial fleet in the world and accelerate the decarbonization of electricity systems to support Google's community investment and most ambitious sustainability moonshot yet; complete decarbonization of the company's operations by 2030.

Over her career she has worked with and held positions supporting state and local government, philanthropic foundations, nonprofits and Fortune 100 companies. Ellen received her bachelor's degree from Princeton University and a master's in Environmental Law and Policy Law from the Vermont Law School.

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