

Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Witness Disclosure Requirement - "Truth in Testimony"
Required by House Rule XI, Clause 2(g)(5)

1. Your Name: Travis Kavulla		
2. Your Title: Vice Chairman & Commissioner		
3. The Entity(ies) You are Representing: National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), Montana Public Service Commission		
4. Are you testifying on behalf of the Federal, or a State or local government entity?	Yes x	No
5. Please list any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts or payments originating with a foreign government, that you or the entity(ies) you represent have received on or after January 1, 2015. Only grants, contracts, or payments related to the subject matter of the hearing must be listed. None		
6. Please attach your curriculum vitae to your completed disclosure form. See attached.		

Signature: _____



Date: Jan. 16, 2018

TRAVIS KAVULLA

VICE-CHAIRMAN & COMMISSIONER

Montana Public Service Commission

JAN. 2011 – PRESENT

Helena, MT

One of five commissioners responsible for regulating energy and water monopolies, as well as certain telecommunications companies and motor carriers in the State of Montana. Nominated in contested Republican primary and elected to office in 2010, and re-elected without opposition in 2014 to a term expiring in 2018. Made decisions on hundreds of matters, with a focus on rate reviews of monopoly utilities, and the reform of ratemaking, interconnection, and reporting requirements for firms in markets transitioning to competition.

Significant achievements include administrative deregulation of retail ratemaking of incumbent local exchange carrier (CenturyLink); introduction of performance incentives for a utility's procurement and energy-supply function; reform of barrier-to-entry regulations for the passenger motor-carrier industry; calculation of ancillary-service rates and power purchase rates for interconnecting renewable projects; reform of the net-metering policy associated with customer-owned generation; and establishment of governance and by-laws for the California Independent System Operator's regional real-time electricity market.

Testified and commented before U.S. Congressional committees and in administrative proceedings and technical conferences of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Frequent speaker to organizations and conferences in the field of energy and telecommunications.

Represents states on the FCC's Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations and the advisory council of the Electric Power Research Institute. Named by S&P Global Market Intelligence on its list of "The 10 most influential people in energy in 2016."

Other professional involvement includes leadership related to national energy policy, regional electric market developments, and transmission expansion in the Western Interconnection (detailed below).

AFFILIATED ROLES TO SERVICE ON THE MONTANA PSC

PRESIDENT, NAT'L ASSN. OF REGULATORY UTILITY COMMISSIONERS NOV. 2015 – NOV. 2016

Supervised a newly hired executive director and acted as CEO of the 127-year-old organization, with 40 staff devoted to improving the practice of utility regulation at the state level. Previously served as a board director and a member of NARUC's Executive Committee for several years.

Responsible for being the representative of state regulators to federal agencies such as FERC and the FCC, as well as to industry trade groups such as the Edison Electric Institute and the American Gas Association, and to other groups of state regulators, such as the organizations responsible for air-quality regulation.

Focus at NARUC included several major initiatives involving electricity and telecommunications, including:

- Engagement with FERC and others on the design and regulation of the wholesale electricity markets, including the interaction between Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) and states, and on the reform of Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA).
- Supervised the advocacy before the FCC and federal courts on issues including the Universal Service Fund/Connect America Fund, municipal broadband pre-emption, inmate calling, and net neutrality.
- Writing and publication of a “Compensation and Pricing Manual for Distributed Energy Resources,” such as a roof-top photovoltaic solar, in order to address controversies about cost-shifts in current net-metering policy.
- Analysis and critical response to the EPA’s Clean Power Plan.

Also involved in a number of significant efforts in natural gas and transportation regulation.

Online at <http://www.naruc.org>

CO-CHAIR, NORTHERN TIER TRANSMISSION GROUP

JAN. 2013 – PRESENT

Co-chair of the Steering Committee of NTTG, which undertakes regional transmission planning for a collection of utilities including PacifiCorp, Portland General Electric, Idaho Power, NorthWestern Energy, the Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems, and Deseret Generation & Transmission Cooperative. NTTG’s Steering Committee approves regional transmission plans, provides policy guidance, and directs FERC filings on behalf of the group.

The Steering Committee’s work in the past several years has included debating and approving the region’s filings in response to FERC’s Order 1000, requiring interstate transmission planning processes, as well as revisiting and improving the group’s use of production cost modeling for the purposes of estimate the economic benefits of transmission expansion.

Online at <http://www.nttg.biz>

CHAIRMAN, CMTE. ON REGIONAL ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATION

OCT. 2016 -- PRESENT

MEMBER, EIM TRANSITIONAL COMMITTEE

APR. 2015 – JULY 2016

CHAIRMAN, PUC ENERGY IMBALANCE MARKET WORKING GROUP

JAN. 2012 – JULY 2015

Headed a successful effort by state regulators to evaluate the costs and benefits of forming a real-time energy market across the dozens of balancing authorities in the Western United States. The Public Utility Commissioners Energy Imbalance Market (PUC EIM) Working Group included a member from each of the Western Interconnection’s utility commissions. Also served on the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) EIM Transitional Committee, which designed a regional governance model to oversee the largest real-time energy market in the Western United States.

Other work in these roles included:

- Solicited market design and cost proposals from the Southwest Power Pool of Little Rock, AR and the CAISO, the latter of which was the basis of an agreement (early 2013) between PacifiCorp and CAISO to form a regional EIM.
- Provided the CAISO stakeholder process with state commissions' input on market design and governance of the regional EIM.
- Worked with FERC to obtain federal regulatory support and guidance on designing an EIM for the maximization of both economic-dispatch and reliability benefits.
- Helped to instigate the work of the Northwest Power Pool (NWPP) and the Southwest Variable Energy Resources Initiative in studying changes to the wholesale markets in those regions.
- Participated in numerous stakeholder processes, including those of CAISO, PacifiCorp, the Bonneville Power Administration, and the NWPP, and presented at dozens of meetings as a representative of the interconnection's regulators on EIM matters.

Co-chair, along with John Chatburn of the Idaho Governor's Energy Office, of CREPC, which brings together governor's offices, utility commissioners, and consumer advocates in order to improve relationships between states and utilities in the Western United States.

DIRECTOR, WESTERN ELECTRICITY COORDINATING COUNCIL (WECC) FEB. 2013 – FEB. 2014
MEMBER, MEMBER ADVISORY COMMITTEE JAN. 2014 – NOV. 2015

Appointed to the WECC Board of Directors at a time when WECC, the regional reliability regulator for the Western Interconnection under the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC), was undergoing a governance overhaul, bifurcating its reliability coordinator function from its standards, compliance auditing, and transmission planning functions. Acted as a strong advocate for bifurcation and the installation of an independent board of directors.

Served on the seven-member selection committee for WECC's new CEO. Elected by WECC Members to the Nominating Committee, responsible for the select of independent board directors. Online at <http://www.wecc.biz/>

PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE

FREELANCE JOURNALIST JULY 2008 – DECEMBER 2010

Contributed full-length pieces and reporting to a variety of sources, including *National Review*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Dallas Morning News*, Fox News, the *Times* of London, *Standpoint* magazine (UK), *The New Atlantis*, *Catholic World Report*, *The Claremont Review of Books* and other outlets. Based in England and Kenya in 2008 and 2009 and traveled widely in Africa, Europe, and South Asia. Special projects editor for National Review Online, supervising five journalists.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

National Review and *National Review Online*

Member of the editorial staff of biweekly magazine of politics and culture, leaving to become a Gates Scholar at Cambridge. Continues to contribute periodically.

JAN. 2007 – OCT. 2007

New York, NY

EDUCATION**M.PHIL., HISTORY**

University of Cambridge

Gates Scholar, competitively awarded through the Gates Trust at Cambridge, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Considerable field research conducted in pursuit of thesis, a critical history of government-led economic planning and the beginnings of development aid in the British colonial world of the 1950s.

FALL 2007 – SUMMER 2008

Cambridge, England

B.A., HISTORY

Harvard University

History, graduated *cum laude*. Columnist for campus daily, *The Crimson*, and editor of conservative magazine *The Salient*. Spent Spring 2005 semester in Montana, organizing a political campaign.

SEPT. 2002 – JAN. 2007

Cambridge, Mass.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS & HONORS

- President & Director, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners; President (Nov. 2015 – Nov. 2016); Director (January 2011 – present).
- Co-Chairman, Northern Tier Transmission Group Steering Committee; January 2013 – present.
- Member, Advisory Council, Electric Power Research Institute; Nov. 2014 – present.
- Member, Federal Communications Commission's Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations; Dec. 2013 – present.
- Chairman, Public Utility Commissioners Energy Imbalance Market Group, December 2011 – 2015 (Chairman as of Dec. 2012).
- Director, Board of Directors, Western Electricity Coordinating Council; February 2013 – Feb. 2014
- Director & Treasurer, Board of Directors, National Regulatory Research Institute; May 2012 – Nov. 2014.
- Member, Advisory Council for Center for Public Utilities, New Mexico State University, November 2011 – present.
- Journalism Fellow; Phillips Foundation; July 2008 – July 2009 (currently known as the Robert Novak Fellow).
- Gates Cambridge Scholar; Gates Trust, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Cambridge, England.; 2007
- Publius Fellow; Claremont Institute; Claremont, Calif.; 2004

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- [“There is No Free Market for Electricity: Can There Ever Be?”](#) *American Affairs* (Summer 2017).
- [“Utility Regulation, Old and New,”](#) *Power*, (December 2016).
- [“A Review of EPA’s Regulatory Activity During the Obama Administration: Energy and Industrial Sectors,”](#) Testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, (July 6, 2016).
- [“How Utilities Team Up with Greens Against Consumers,”](#) *Wall Street Journal* (Feb. 26, 2016).
- [“Efficient Markets, Effective Regulation,”](#) Inaugural Remarks at the 127th Annual Meeting of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners at Austin, Texas, (Nov. 19, 2015).
- [“Questions Concerning EPA’s Proposed Clean Power Plan,”](#) Testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy and Power, (Sept. 9, 2014).
- [Concurring Opinion](#), MPSC Docket D2012.5.49, In the Matter of NorthWestern Energy’s Electricity Supply Tracker (related to the efficiency of fleet operations of an electric utility), (Oct. 28, 2013).
- [“Timing is Everything: Aligning States’ Wind Integration Tariffs with Capacity Costs,”](#) presented at the 26th Annual Western Conference of the Rutgers University Center for Research in Regulated Industries, (archived program from [June 2013](#)).
- [Concurring Opinion](#), MPSC Docket D2012.1.3, In the Matter of NorthWestern Energy’s Application of Approval for Avoided Cost Tariff (related to setting “integration” and power-purchase rates for wind facilities), (Dec. 7, 2012).
- [“The Political Economy of Wind,”](#) *National Regulatory Research Institute*, (Feb. 2012).