

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Regulatory Assistance Project launches Council of Commissioners to unlock affordable energy for Americans

Peer group will leverage former commissioners' experience and expertise

- **Why it matters:** As stress on the energy system increases, regulators and policymakers must reform regulatory practices to secure access to clean, affordable and reliable energy for all.
- **Why it's different:** RAP is innovating by bringing together former commissioners, who can speak candidly and with authority on what's holding back progress in U.S. energy systems.
- **Why now:** When even common-sense reforms have become polarized, this bipartisan group can rise above the fray to focus on real, actionable solutions.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A new initiative by the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)® is taking a fresh approach to tackling the bold energy system reforms needed to ensure everyone has access to affordable, reliable, clean and secure energy.

RAP announced the launch today of its **Council of Commissioners**. The nine-person council is a politically diverse group of former state utility commissioners representing all U.S. regions.

By combining this deep regulatory experience with RAP's analytical expertise, the council will help refocus the national debate on constructive, solutions-oriented reform. The council will weigh in on issues of national importance, speaking candidly and with authority on the structural issues holding the country back from an affordable, future-ready energy system.

Council Membership

The regionally balanced council includes former commissioners appointed by both Democratic and Republican governors. While serving on their commissions, this group led significant innovations in U.S. energy regulation:

- **Jay Griffin: Hawaii Public Utilities Commission** — Chair, 2019-2022; Commissioner, 2017-2019. Griffin serves as Executive Chair of RAP's U.S. Program.
- **Kent Chandler: Kentucky Public Service Commission** — Chair, 2021-2024; Vice Chair, 2020-2021.

- **Megan Decker**: Oregon Public Utility Commission — Chair, 2018-2025; Commissioner, 2017-2018.
- **Sarah Freeman**: Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission — Commissioner, 2016-2025.
- **Carl Linvill**: Nevada Public Utilities Commission — Commissioner, 2003-2006.
- **Michael T. Richard**: Maryland Public Service Commission — Commissioner, 2016-2025.
- **Ted Thomas**: Arkansas Public Service Commission — Chair, 2015-2022.
- **James M. (Jamie) Van Nostrand**: Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities — Chair, 2023-2025.
- **Carrie Zalewski**: Illinois Commerce Commission — Chair, 2019-2023.

Comments From RAP Leadership

With rising load growth, higher energy bills and mounting pressure on the grid, the utility commissioner's job is harder than ever.

Jay Griffin, RAP's U.S. Program Executive Chair, said:

"RAP is excited to assemble this group of leaders as the inaugural Council of Commissioners. The council will support utility regulators in achieving the reforms needed to meet today's energy challenges. This group understands the pressures on regulators and will serve as trusted peers to commissions throughout the U.S."

At the same time, the shift onto reliable, abundant clean energy is gaining momentum. Innovative regulation can speed this shift, not slow it down.

Katherine Dixon, RAP's chief executive officer, said:

"At a time when energy issues are becoming increasingly politicized, this council's experience will help today's decision-makers cut through the noise, focus on the most urgent challenges, and set the course toward the affordable, safe and secure energy all Americans deserve."

Comments From Council Members

Megan Decker, former Oregon Public Utility Commission Chair, said:

"The council can change the narrative by reminding people that regulation isn't usually about ideology — it's about solving problems in a fair, transparent and data-driven way. By showing how commissioners work together across states and perspectives, we can

shift the conversation toward shared solutions that keep the lights on and energy affordable while supporting innovation and cleaner resources.”

Michael T. Richard, former Maryland Public Service Commissioner, said:

“RAP was one of the first organizations that reached out to me when I first joined the Maryland Public Service Commission, and it provided me with valuable resources about being an effective utilities regulator. Throughout my nearly 10 years as a regulator, RAP has been a reliable go-to organization for information on all the most current issues facing utilities regulators. I’m very honored to be asked to join the Council of Commissioners, and I hope I can in turn now be a resource to new and current regulators.”

About RAP

The Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)® is an independent global organization with a mission of advancing policy innovation and thought leadership within the energy community.

RAP uniquely combines trusted peer experience with cutting-edge technical knowledge and an ambitious vision, equipping policymakers to confidently advance evidence-driven regulatory reforms at the scale necessary to meet urgent public interest goals.

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