

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

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Dworkin's Leadership of IEE Wins ERE's Kilmarx Award

Former Vermont Public Service Board Chairman Michael Dworkin has won a national award recognizing his work in founding the Vermont Law School's Institute for Energy and the Environment.

The Mary Kilmarx Award is given annually by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Energy Resources and the Environment (ERE) Committee to someone whose work reflects the Committee's goals of promoting good government, clean energy and the environment.

"Michael Dworkin's work in the energy and environmental field is internationally known, and his commitment to education and conservation as demonstrated with the Institute for Energy and the Environment made him an ideal candidate for the Mary Kilmarx Award," said Commissioner Rick Morgan of the District of Columbia, who presented the award on behalf of the ERE Committee. "This Award recognizes those who have gone above and beyond the call of duty—traits that personify Michael Dworkin."

Dworkin was presented the award on Nov. 17 during NARUC's 120th Annual Convention in New Orleans. ERE members had several reasons to present Dworkin with the award—notably his past chairmanship of the Vermont Public Service Board and the ERE Committee, and his work with the Institute for Energy and the Environment.

Dworkin founded the Institute in 2005 after leaving the Public Service Board. The Institute is an international resource for energy law and policy. It offers a full course curriculum during the academic year and a series of summer seminars as well. The Institute's student researchers work on pressing energy concerns such as energy self-reliance, carbon sequestration, and renewable energy sources.

"The Institute is about building the right mix for thinking with global ideals and acting with rigorous pragmatism," Dworkin said. "Our mission is to have fewer greenhouse gas emissions in 50 years because of the work we do today, and in 100 years because of the work our students do tomorrow. It's been a joy to find that Vermont Law provides a base for paralleling the work that Mary Kilmarx taught so many NARUC members to pursue for just such goals."

First awarded in 2002, the honor is named for Mary Kilmarx, a former commissioner and staff member at the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission, who served as staff co-chair of the ERE Committee when it was called the Energy Conservation Committee and provided its members with inspiration for many years.

Past winners of the Kilmarx Award are: Former Montana Public Service Commissioner Bob Anderson; Former Vermont Public Service Board Chairman Richard Cowart; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Kathleen Hogan; Former Maine Public Utilities Commission member Cheryl Harrington; Natural Resources Defense Council Senior Attorney Ralph Cavanagh; and Executive Director of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project Howard Geller.

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NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1889 whose members include the governmental agencies that are engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers in the fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NARUC's member agencies regulate telecommunications, energy, and water utilities. NARUC represents the interests of State public utility commissions before the three branches of the Federal government.

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