



For Immediate Release

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Coalition of State Officials Agree to Collaborative Approach on Regulating Energy Sector

(Washington, DC) – A broad coalition of State energy, utility and environmental officials agreed to conduct an ongoing dialogue on clean air and energy related issues as the federal government moves forward with new environmental regulations. Of particular interest is implementing these environmental initiatives and reaping the associated benefits while not compromising energy reliability.

After their first meeting, on Thursday, Dec. 2, representatives of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA), the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) determined that strong communications among the three associations and their respective memberships is a necessity as the nation transitions to a clean-energy economy.

NACAA is the association of air quality agencies in 52 States and territories and more than 165 metropolitan areas across the nation. NARUC represents the State regulators who regulate essential utility services. NASEO represents the 56 State and Territory Energy Offices.

The Dec. 2 meeting, held in Washington, was an informal gathering of approximately 50 State regulators and energy officials from all around the country representing geographic and political diversity.

The meeting served as a forum for participants to get acquainted and learn more about their peer agencies. Discussants made presentations on the critical issues facing environmental regulators, utility regulators, and the energy offices in their roles as governors' policy advisors. The participants recognized that studying more closely the interrelated nature of their work and sharing "best practices" would benefit not only the respective efforts of each group, but the entire nation as well.

"State and local air pollution control agencies are proud to partner with our energy and utility counterparts to collaboratively chart a course that allows all of us to fulfill our obligations to the citizens we serve." said NACAA Executive Director S. William Becker. "The substantive discussions that we have just begun will enable us to understand and, therefore, be more sensitive to one another's roles and responsibilities. Moreover, this initiative will facilitate our ability to explore ways to achieve critical environmental goals while ensuring the reliability of energy

supplies.”

"As has always been the case, State agencies will continue leading the way in developing the country's clean-energy infrastructure," said NARUC Executive Director Charles Gray. "Bringing our members together with our colleagues from the air and energy offices is critical, particularly as the federal government considers new environmental rules. The agencies we represent perform essential functions on many of the same issues. Building common understanding between these organizations will help our States and, as a result, our country move forward."

"States are key to moving energy issues forward in a way that balances energy, environmental and economic development priorities. The meeting of the three key organizations representing State energy and air interests is a valuable way to better inform each groups' members about these critical issues, and find means to collaborate with relevant federal agencies," said NASEO Executive Director David Terry.

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