

## **Press Release From National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners**

For Immediate Release

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### **California's Simon Appointed Chair of State-Federal LNG Panel**

WASHINGTON—National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners President Frederick Butler of New Jersey appointed Commissioner Timothy Alan Simon of the California Public Utilities Commission to lead a federal-State task force on increasing development of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) resources.

The NARUC-Department of Energy LNG Partnership consists of both federal and State energy officials and encourages a dialogue between regulators, legislators, utility experts, environmental regulators, and other stakeholders to ensure the responsible development and deployment of LNG resources, including terminal, storage, and transport facilities. Former Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham launched the Partnership in September 2003.

NARUC is the national trade association representing State public service commissioners that regulate essential utility services such as natural gas, electricity, telecommunications, water, and transportation. The Association is based in Washington.

Commissioner Simon will serve as Chairman of the Partnership, replacing former Commissioner Robert Keating of Massachusetts, who left regulation earlier this year. Commissioners C. Robert Moseley of South Carolina and Robert Curry of New York remain as the panel's Co-Vice Chairs.

"Commissioner Simon is stepping up to serve NARUC and, by extension, and California ratepayers, at a critical time," said President Butler. "The LNG Partnership plays an important role in ensuring that the interests of State regulators and the ratepayers we are obligated to serve are represented as this industry matures. I also would like to thank Commissioner Keating for his tireless service to NARUC and this country."

"I look forward to this opportunity," said Commissioner Simon. "As our country explores dramatic changes to our energy policy, we must leave all of our options open. This Partnership provides State regulators with the opportunity to stay informed and active on this crucial issue."

To date, the Partnership has been able to assist States better understand the important technological and policy issues associated with expanded LNG delivery and use. The Partnership has become a cornerstone of national discussions on the relationship between high natural gas prices, the need to improve natural gas supply, and the need to increase LNG import capacity.

Commissioner Simon was appointed to the California Public Utilities Commission in January 2007. He is a member of NARUC's Consumer Affairs, Critical Infrastructure, and Gas Committees.