

UTILITY REFORM NOW!

August 17, 2026

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Eric Lipman – eric@utilityreformnow.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ratepayer Association Wants to Keep State Commissioners Out of the Caribbean

[Saint Paul, Minnesota] Utility Reform Now! (URN), an association of Minnesota utility ratepayers, is calling on the five Commissioners of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission not to charge Minnesota's ratepayers for Post-Election Day travel by the Commissioners ... *to the Caribbean!*

In correspondence filed with the Commission, URN asked each of the Commissioners not to attend the annual conference of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), now scheduled for the weekend *after* Election Day, in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (<https://www.naruc.org/annual-meeting/>)

Excessive travel is a real problem at the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The Commission's own records show that, in one 13-month period:

- (a) The five Commissioner's incurred almost \$50,000 in travel costs; and,
- (b) Chairwoman Sieben went on seven out-of-state trips. See attached.

"The problem is cultural," says Eric Lipman, Chief Advocacy Officer of Utility Reform Now! "The work of utility regulation is in Saint Paul. It does not require leaving St. Paul, at a rate of once every other month, to gab with colleagues who don't regulate utility service in Minnesota. The charges are excessive."

"This is particularly true because NARUC is a leader in on-demand training for state regulators," continues Lipman, pointing to the dozens of on-line training modules posted by NARUC. (See <https://www.naruc.org/cpi/commission-support/technical-assistance-training/learning-modules/>) "And that is where training for government officials needs to head: Online. And off of Condado Beach. It is a sin to charge ordinary ratepayers for such expenses."

URN urges Minnesotans to call the Governor's Office [(651) 201-3400] and the Commission [(651) 296-0406] and ask Commissioners to stay home this winter.

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SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE TRAVEL BY MPUC COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF ... AND THE FLIMSY RATIONALE

Commissioner/Staff Travel to NARUC or MARC
FY 2025-26
As of 12/30/2025

Row	Name	Trip Title	Dates	Location	Direct Pay Expenses	Employee Expense Report	Expense Total	Reimbursements	Total Cost
1	Audrey Maricus	NARUC Accounting and Finance Conference	September 7-11, 2025	Denver, CO	1,473	232	1,705	-	1,705
2	Audrey Partridge	New Commissioning Training	April 27-29, 2025	Washington, DC	1,448	268	1,716	(1,358)	360
3	Audrey Partridge	MARC Annual Meeting	June 22-25, 2025	Indianapolis, IN	1,108	276	1,384	(500)	884
4	Audrey Partridge	NARUC Summer Policy Summit	July 27-30, 2025	Boston, MA	2,207	353	2,560	-	2,560
5	Audrey Partridge	NARUC Winter Policy Summit	February 9-11, 2026	Washington, DC	1,100	410	1,510	(341)	1,169
6	Christian Norcia	NARUC Operations Training	October 11-17, 2025	Nashville, TN	1,434	212	1,646	-	1,646
7	Christine Pham	NARUC Accounting and Finance Conference	September 7-11, 2025	Denver, CO	-	-	-	-	-
8	Cori Rude Young	NARUC Winter Policy Summit	February 9-11, 2026	Washington, DC	1,017	111	1,128	-	1,128
9	Dorcas, Derek	NARUC-MASED Training for States	April 29-May 2, 2025	Denver, CO	987	87	1,074	-	1,074
10	Gomez, Kit	NARUC-MASED Training for States	April 29-May 2, 2025	Denver, CO	450	-	450	-	450
11	Hannah Olson	NARUC Fundamentals of Gas Regulation	November 18-20, 2025	Virtual	2,842	-	2,842	-	2,842
12	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Rate School	October 19-24, 2025	Cleanwater, FL	2,382	272	2,654	(480)	2,174
13	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Winter Policy Summit	February 23-26, 2025	Washington, DC	1,736	345	2,081	-	2,081
14	Hus Muhammad	MARC Commissioners Only Summit	January 9-11, 2025	Oklahoma City, OK	490	-	490	-	490
15	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Summer Policy Summit	July 13-17, 2024	West Palm Beach, FL	1,050	243	1,293	(500)	793
16	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Annual Meeting	June 22-25, 2025	Indianapolis, IN	2,119	227	2,346	-	2,346
17	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Winter Policy Summit	November 7-12, 2025	Anaheim, CA	2,295	201	2,496	-	2,496
18	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Summer Policy Summit	July 27-30, 2025	Boston, MA	2,422	269	2,691	-	2,691
19	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Winter Policy Summit	February 9-11, 2026	Washington, DC	1,105	385	1,490	(840)	650
20	Hus Muhammad	NARUC-MASED Comp. Planning Workshop	December 9-11, 2025	Virtual	2,398	229	2,627	(1,190)	1,437
21	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Winter Policy Summit	February 23-26, 2025	Washington, DC	900	-	900	(500)	400
22	Hus Muhammad	MARC Commissioners Only Summit	January 9-11, 2025	Oklahoma City, OK	2,109	381	2,490	(1,170)	1,320
23	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Summer Policy Summit	July 13-17, 2024	West Palm Beach, FL	1,170	362	1,532	(500)	1,032
24	Hus Muhammad	MARC Annual Meeting	June 22-25, 2025	Indianapolis, IN	2,342	267	2,609	(1,522)	1,087
25	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Winter Policy Summit	November 9-13, 2024	Anaheim, CA	2,354	372	2,726	(1,077)	1,649
26	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Summer Policy Summit	July 27-30, 2025	Boston, MA	-	-	-	-	-
27	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Winter Policy Summit	February 9-11, 2026	Washington, DC	1,796	136	1,932	-	1,932
28	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Commissioners Only Summit	January 9-11, 2025	Oklahoma City, OK	634	65	699	(699)	-
29	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Annual Meeting	June 22-25, 2025	Indianapolis, IN	550	1,566	2,116	(500)	1,616
30	Hus Muhammad	MARC Summer Policy Summit	October 19-24, 2025	Cleanwater, FL	2,442	427	2,869	-	2,869
31	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Winter Policy Summit	February 23-26, 2025	Washington, DC	2,270	-	2,270	(480)	1,790
32	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Rate School	October 19-24, 2025	Cleanwater, FL	490	-	490	(500)	-
33	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Summer Policy Summit	July 27-30, 2025	Boston, MA	1,300	45	1,345	(500)	845
34	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Winter Policy Summit	February 9-11, 2026	Washington, DC	2,368	150	2,518	(699)	1,819
35	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Annual Meeting	June 22-25, 2025	Indianapolis, IN	883	362	1,245	-	1,245
36	Hus Muhammad	EU-US Roundtable	November 19-21, 2025	Anaheim, CA	2,127	-	2,127	-	2,127
37	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Accounting and Finance Conference	September 7-11, 2025	Denver, CO	2,127	-	2,127	-	2,127
38	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Winter Policy Summit	February 23-26, 2025	Washington, DC	2,409	100	2,509	-	2,509
39	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Summer Policy Summit	July 27-30, 2025	Boston, MA	-	-	-	-	-
40	Hus Muhammad	NARUC Winter Policy Summit	February 9-11, 2026	Washington, DC	-	-	-	-	-

Authorization for Travel

Submit to the Accounting Authority Designated at least 10 days prior to anticipated departure date.

Person: Joe Sullivan, Vice Chair

Organization: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Location of event: Seattle, WA

Date(s) and Time(s) of event: November 8-12, 2025, 12:00pm-5:00pm

Date of Request: 9/12/25

Return Date: 11/12/25

Mode of Travel: ☒ Air ☐ Rail ☐ Other

Estimated cost of trip: \$1,125.00

1. FARE (round trip) \$425 x 5 = \$2,125.00

2. LODGING (4 nights @ \$288 = \$1,152)

3. MEALS (5 days @ \$50.00 = \$250.00)

4. OTHER (specify) EXHIBIT URN - 11

5. TOTAL ESTIMATED COST (\$2,802 per person) \$4,203.00

RECOMMENDED BY: Accounting Manager

Supervisor: M. Sullivan

Date: 9/12/25

Agency Head: M. Sullivan

Date: 9/12/25

The annual meeting is an important way to connect with other states and share knowledge regarding utility regulation, innovative resources and business practices commissions are using – what works, what doesn't work. This is particularly important to share information and connect with other commissioners and staff to effectively work together as regulators and find solutions to various utility related challenges facing the nation.

Row	Name	Trip Title	Dates	Location	Direct Pay Expenses	Employee Expense Report	Expense Total	Reimbursements	Total Cost
41	Katie Seiben	NARUC Winter Policy Summit	February 9-11, 2026	Washington, DC	648	485	1,133	-	1,133
42	McKinney, Angelo	NARUC Roundtable on Equitable Electricity	September 9-10, 2024	Kansas City, MO	2,154	307	2,461	-	2,461
43	Mike Bull	NARUC Summer Policy Summit	July 27-30, 2025	Boston, MA	1,096	362	1,458	-	1,458
44	Mike Bull	NARUC Winter Policy Summit	February 9-11, 2026	Washington, DC	978	106	1,084	-	1,084
45	Norcia, Christian	NARUC-MASED Training for States	April 29-May 2, 2025	Denver, CO	1,096	279	1,375	-	1,375
46	Rude Young, Cori	MARC Annual Meeting	November 8-12, 2025	Seattle, WA	2,127	477	2,604	-	2,604
47	Sarah Bergman	NARUC Winter Policy Summit	February 9-11, 2026	Washington, DC	1,031	250	1,281	(250)	1,031
48	Sophie Nolas	NARUC Annual Meeting	June 22-25, 2025	Indianapolis, IN	588	588	1,176	-	1,176
49	Stephan Rose	NARUC-MASED Comp. Planning Workshop	December 9-11, 2025	Virtual	2,398	229	2,627	(1,190)	1,437
50	Tera Dorfield	CANCELLED NARUC Task Force on Natural Gas	March 24-26, 2025	Philadelphia, PA	910	223	1,133	(1,132)	-
51	Tera Dorfield	NARUC Task Force on Natural Gas Workshop	October 17-18, 2024	Anaheim, CA	1,162	263	1,425	(1,425)	-
52	Tewell, Hanna	NARUC-MASED Comp. Planning Workshop	March 11-13, 2025	Virtual	2,398	229	2,627	(1,190)	1,437
53	Trip Harsch	NARUC Winter Policy Summit	February 9-11, 2026	Washington, DC	2,409	111	2,520	-	2,520
54	Trip Harsch	NARUC-MASED Training for States	April 29-May 2, 2025	Denver, CO	1,251	-	1,251	-	1,251
Total					68,822	10,286	79,110	(15,943)	63,167

\$79,110

