



N A R U C
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

August 16, 2013

The Honorable Mignon Clyburn, Acting Chairman
Office of the Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 – 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554.

RE: *NARUC Nomination of the Honorable Chris Nelson to replace Retired Commissioner Mitchell on the Universal Service Joint Board.*

Filed in the proceeding captioned: In the Matter of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chair Clyburn,

As you know, the Universal Service Joint Board was created by Congress to provide recommendations to the full Commission on universal service issues. Recently, South Carolina Commissioner Randy Mitchell retired from public service thereby opening up a vacancy on the board. Section 254 of the 1996 Act requires the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) to submit a nomination to fill his spot on the Joint Board. Accordingly, NARUC's President Phil Jones, with the concurrence of NARUC's Board of Directors, as required by NARUC's bylaws, pursuant to 47 U.S.C., §§ 410(c) & 254, nominates the following State commissioner to serve on the Universal Service Joint Board in lieu of Commissioner Mitchell:

The Honorable Chris Nelson
VICE CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONER
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
500 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-5070
PHONE: 605-3773-3201 E-MAIL: CHIRS.NELSON@STATE.SD.US

We respectfully request you confirm NARUC's nomination at your earliest convenience. A copy of his biography is attached. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 202.898.2207 or jramsay@naruc.org.

Sincerely,

James Bradford Ramsay
NARUC General Counsel

CC: *The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, FCC Chair of USF Joint Board*
Rebekah Goodheart, Wireline Legal Advisor to the Chair
Pricilla Delgado Argeris, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Rosenworcel
Julie Veach, Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau
Kim Scardino, Deputy Division Chief, TAPD Wireline Competition Bureau



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Chris Nelson is currently the vice chairman of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

Chris was appointed Jan. 8, 2011, by Gov. Dennis Daugaard to fill a vacancy on the commission and was elected by South Dakota voters in November 2012 to continue his service for the remaining four years of the term. Chris served as the PUC's chairman in 2012 and vice chairman in 2011.

He is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, serving as a member of the association's Committee on Telecommunications. Additionally, Chris has been appointed to the NARUC Task Force on Federalism and Telecommunications.

Previously, Chris served as Secretary of State having been elected in the 2002 general election. Chris was unopposed for reelection in 2006 which was the first time the office was unopposed in the history of South Dakota. Prior to becoming Secretary of State, Chris held the position of state election supervisor in the Secretary of State's office for 13 years and was uniform commercial code supervisor in the same office for two years. As Secretary of State, Chris received the 2010 Excellent Service to South Dakota County Officials award from the South Dakota County Officials Association, the 2004 Hazeltine/Taylor award from South Dakota Kids Voting, and the 2003 Excellence in South Dakota Municipal Government award from the South Dakota Municipal League. In 2005, Chris was appointed as a National Governors Association representative on the United States Election Assistance Commission Board of Advisors.

Under Chris's leadership the secretary of state's office was awarded the Election Center's 2009 Professional Practices Program State Award. This annual award is given as recognition for the most outstanding election administration professional practice in the nation. The award recognizes the 2008 development and implementation of a new central election reporting system for the state.

Following graduation from White Lake High School, Chris earned a bachelor's degree in animal science, with highest honors, from South Dakota State University in 1987.

Chris is actively involved in his church and counts agriculture and hunting as two areas of personal interest. He maintains a part-time cattle operation. Chris, his wife Penny and daughter Rebekah reside in Pierre.