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The Forum for America's Ideas

Welcome!

NCSL Natural Resources and Infrastructure (NRI) Committee

New Member Orientation

Oct. 28, 2013

Dial +1 (702) 489-0003 for the webinar audio

Access code: 977-738-619



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Who's Here Today?

- Please introduce yourself by name and state
- You can ask questions at any time on the phone or in the Q&A chat box



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Welcome from the NRI Co-Chairs



Rep. Jim Gooch Jr.
Kentucky



Rep. John McCoy
Washington



Sen. Ross Tolleson
Georgia



Sen. John Watkins
Virginia



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Welcome from NCSL Staff



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Agenda

- **About NCSL**
- **Committee structure and appointments**
- **Committee activities**



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Who is NCSL?

- Bipartisan organization
- Serves the 7,383 legislators and 20,000+ legislative staff of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories
- Activities:
 - ▶ Informational services and technical assistance
 - ▶ Opportunities for policymakers to exchange ideas
 - ▶ Lobbying at the federal level for states' interests
- **NCSL is your organization!**





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What are NCSL's Standing Committees?

- Main mechanism for serving NCSL members
- Composed of legislators and staff from across the states
- Deal with both state and state-federal issues

Budgets and
Revenue

Communications,
Financial Services
and Interstate
Commerce

Education

Health and
Human Services

Labor and
Economic
Development

Law and Criminal
Justice

Legislative
Effectiveness

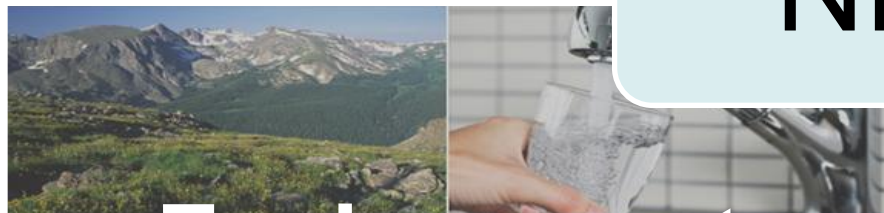
**Natural
Resources and
Infrastructure**



What Issues Does NRI Cover?



NRI





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How Are Members Appointed?

- Appointed by presiding officers and staff directors
- Legislators are appointed for two-year terms consistent with the biennium (2013 – 2014)
- Legislative staff serve at staff directors' discretion
- No limit to how long you can serve
- As of Oct. 15, 2013, NRI had **870 members** from across the states



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How Are Officers Appointed?

- Chosen by NCSL's President, President-Elect and Staff Chair
- Legislator co-chairs and vice chairs serve two-year terms and are balanced by party
- Staff co-chairs and vice chairs serve one-year terms
- Committees typically have two legislator co-chairs, but NRI has four because it arose from the 2013 merger of two committees



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Who are NRI's Officers?

Co-Chairs:

Rep. Jim Gooch, Kentucky
Rep. John McCoy, Washington
Sen. Ross Tolleson, Georgia
Sen. John Watkins, Virginia

Vice Chairs:

Sen. Mark Allen, Oklahoma
Asm. Kevin Cahill, New York
Rep. John Davis, Oregon
Sen. Steve Farley, Arizona

Vice Chairs:

Sen. Jennie Forehand, Maryland
Sen. Gail Griffin, Arizona
Rep. Greg Leding, Arkansas
Sen. Virginia Lyons, Vermont
Rep. Chuck McGrady, North Carolina
Sen. Edward Meyer, Connecticut
Sen. Mac Middleton, Maryland
Rep. Ed Orcutt, Washington
Sen. Marc Pacheco, Massachusetts
Sen. Gail Schwartz, Colorado
Rep. Sue Wallis, Wyoming
Sen. Cam Ward, Alabama
Rep. Peggy Wilson, Alaska

Staff Co-Chairs:

Linda Hay, Alaska
Jennifer Jones, Texas

Staff Vice Chairs:

David Beaujon, Colorado
Jessica Peters, California
John Snyder, Kentucky
Hope Stockwell, Montana
Appointments Underway



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Any Questions at This Point?

- Feel free to ask any questions about what the committee *is*...
- We'll get to what the committee *does* in just a moment!





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What Does the Committee Do?

State Policy Issues

- Discuss state issues
- Provide input and oversight for NCSL state policy information activities
- Committees do *not* recommend policy to the legislatures on issues internal to the states
- Work with NCSL-Denver

State-Federal Advocacy

- Discuss state-federal issues
- Develop state-federal policies to guide NCSL's lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C.
- Represent NCSL positions before Congressional committees or federal agencies
- Work with NCSL-D.C.



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NCSL Policy Directives and Resolutions

- Guide NCSL's state-federal lobbying efforts
- Two types of policies:
 - ▶ **Policy Directives:** Broad policy statements, do not expire
 - ▶ **Policy Resolutions:** Focused on timely action, expire after 1 year
- New policies must be submitted 30 days before next business meeting
- As of Aug. 2013, 19 Policy Directives and 4 Policy Resolutions are under the jurisdiction of the NRI Committee



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Do Legislators and Staff Members Have Different Roles?

- Legislative staff participate in all activities of the standing committee, except...
- **Only legislators** vote on policies
- Staff roles on the committee may echo role in state (providing data and information or other expert insight)



Task Forces and Working Groups



- Task Forces and Working Groups complement the standing committees
- Typically created for a limited period of time to focus on a specific issue
- Those related to NRI's jurisdiction are:
 - ▶ Agriculture Task Force
 - ▶ Energy Supply Task Force
 - ▶ Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group
 - ▶ Nuclear Legislative Working Group



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Upcoming Activities

- NCSL Committees convene twice per year in conjunction with NCSL's main national meetings
 - ▶ **Fall Forum** (Dec. 4 – 6, 2013, Washington, D.C.)
 - ▶ **Legislative Summit** (Aug. 19 – 22, 2014, Minneapolis, Minn.)
- Conference calls between meetings
- Additional meetings of Task Forces and Working Groups
- Webinars





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Online Resources: State-Federal

- **NRI Committee homepage** (links to policies, newsletters, meeting resources and NCSL representation of states' interests to Congress)

www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=278

- **Committee roster:**

www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=16728

- **Info alerts and archives:**

www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=25672





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Online Resources: State Policy

- **Agriculture and rural development:**
www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=291
- **Energy:**
www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=297
- **Environment and natural resources:**
www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=298
- **Transportation:**
www.ncsl.org/default.aspx?tabid=304



Any Other Questions?

- NCSL staff are also available to you anytime!
- For questions about state-federal issues:



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