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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maryland PSC Encourages a 'Day of Utility Service' on MLK Holiday

Part of the National 'Anybody Can Serve, So Let's Conserve' Campaign

(BALTIMORE)—The Maryland Public Service Commission joins the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) in commemorating this year's January 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday as a 'Day of Utility Service.'

The legacy of Dr. King is the call to serve others, and in 1994, the United States Congress designated the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday as a national day of service. In February 2008, NARUC's Board of Directors passed a resolution calling on state public service commissioners and the general public to engage in opportunities to promote utility service, such as weatherization, conservation and other energy management tools.

The NARUC Day of Utility Service became known as the 'Anybody Can Serve, So Let's Conserve' campaign, an initiative led by former South Carolina Commissioner Mignon Clyburn in 2009. This year's campaign, led by Missouri Commissioner Robert Kenney, encourages the public to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity projects in their local communities. Habitat's weatherization projects include tasks ranging from retrofitting existing homes with insulation to installing energy-efficient appliances.

"Commemorating Dr. King's birthday through a day of service oriented around energy conservation not only broadens overall awareness, but has tangible benefits," says PSC Chairman Douglas Nazarian. "Even if you are unable to go out and volunteer, taking steps to conserve energy in your own home benefits everyone. Because this message extends beyond a single day, the Maryland Commission enthusiastically supports the campaign."

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The Commission encourages Marylanders to adopt the energy conservation tips offered by the Anybody Can Serve campaign, which include the following:

- Change incandescent light bulbs to energy efficient compact fluorescent or LED bulbs, which are available at discounted prices as part of Maryland electric companies' EmPower Maryland programs.
- Call your electric company and set up a home energy audit—a Quick Home Energy Audit or a full audit—through EmPower Maryland programs.
- Use a low-flow energy shower head.
- Wash your clothes in cold water.
- Heat your food in the microwave instead of turning on the oven.
- Keep your thermostat at 70° during the heating season; raise your cooling thermostat to 78° during the summer.
- Turn off and unplug electronics when they are not in use.
- Make sure your hot water heater is insulated.
- Run your dishwasher only when it's full.

To find opportunities to become a Habitat volunteer, visit www.habitat.org and click the 'Get Involved' link. More information on MLK Day and ways to serve in the community are available at www.mlkday.gov.

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