

OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 18
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

February 5, 2018

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301**REQUESTED ACTION**

The Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) requests **RETROACTIVE** authority to continue its membership and participation in the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA), Vendor # 171638, for the period of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018, for an amount of \$3,840. Funding is 100% Other Funds (Utilities Assessments).

Funding is available in account, Organizational Dues, as follows:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>FY 2018</u>
Office of Consumer Advocate 02-81-81-812010-28160000-026-500251	Membership Fees	\$3,840.00

EXPLANATION

The OCA is tasked pursuant to RSA 363:28 with representing the interests of residential utility customers before the Public Utilities Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, regional bodies such as the New England Power Pool, and elsewhere. More than 40 states have similar offices. Utility regulation is complex and advancing consumer interests often requires multistate coordination and information-sharing. NASUCA is a national organization which brings together the expertise and experience of all the member states' consumer advocates. This request is **RETROACTIVE** because the initial invoice was received after January 1, 2018. A copy of the invoice is attached for your review.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

- 1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?** NASUCA was formed in May 1979. The OCA has been a member since at least 1996.
- 2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?** There is no other organization that provides the same or similar benefits to the OCA.
- 3. How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?** This is a national organization of 44 consumer advocates in 40 states, Barbados and the District of Columbia. The OCA is the sole New Hampshire agency member.

4. **How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)** The dues structure is based on a two-component formula using a flat fee of \$600.00 and a factor 0.003974, applied to the agency's approved budget. Please see attached formula page from NASUCA.
5. **What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?** NASUCA provides current nationwide information on utility regulatory topics, from a consumer perspective, through participation in committees, monthly teleconferences and semi-annual meetings. NASUCA adopts policy positions on issues of national importance to utility customers; the OCA participates in the development of these positions.
6. **Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.** NASUCA holds member conferences on utility regulatory concerns of special interest to consumer advocates. There are also regular webinars and conference calls.
7. **Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.** No. Membership in NASUCA is not required in order to receive federal grants or participate in licensing or certification exams.
8. **Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips.** No. However, grants are sometimes available for conference/meeting participation.
9. **Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization?)**
The Consumer Advocate, D. Maurice Kreis participates in the NASUCA "Head of Office" forum and will serve on the Electric and Distributed Energy Resources committees; the Assistant Consumer Advocate, Dr. Pradip K. Chattopadhyay, will serve on the Electric Committee; the Finance Director, James J. Brennan, serves on the Gas, Electric and Tax/Accounting committees, and the staff attorney, Brian Buckley will serve on the Electric and Water committees.
10. **Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.** It is through NASUCA that the OCA keeps up to date on how the utility consumer protections are implemented in different states and how issues of regional and national importance are being addressed. The OCA learns via NASUCA whether positions taken by New Hampshire utilities are consistent with best practices from a consumer perspective. The OCA's effectiveness is increased through exchanging ideas and information with its counterpart agencies in other states.

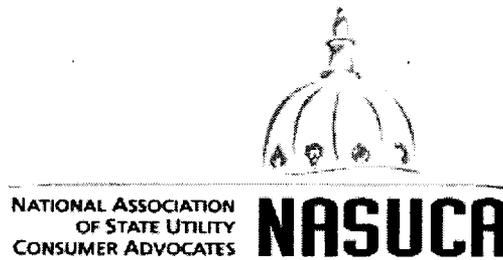
Your consideration of our request is appreciated.

Respectfully,



D. Maurice Kreis
Consumer Advocate

Attachments- NASUCA Invoice
Dues Structure



January 11, 2018

**Bill to: Mr. Donald Kreis
Office of Consumer Advocate
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 18
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5141**

At the NASUCA Annual Meeting held in Baltimore, Maryland in November 2017, the membership approved its annual budget and 2018 dues. The annual dues assessment for NASUCA Full Members remains the same as last year at 0.3974% of your office budget, with a minimum assessment of \$993 and a maximum assessment of \$10,597.00. In addition, there is an across-the-board \$600 assessment to NASUCA Full Members to finance the Federal Regulatory Advocacy Fund.

Attached is an invoice and template for calculating your 2018 NASUCA dues. Please review and remit your payment accordingly. **Please note that payments should be sent to the NASUCA office directly.**

If you have any questions concerning your calculation, please contact David Springe, NASUCA Executive Director at 785-550-7606 or david.springe@nasuca.org

Thank you for your continued support of NASUCA and its activities on behalf of its members and consumers.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jackie Roberts", is written above the typed name.

Jackie Roberts (WV)
NASUCA Treasurer

2018 INVOICE: NASUCA FULL MEMBER

January 11, 2018

Bill to: Mr. Donald Kreis
Office of Consumer Advocate
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 18
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5141

2018 NASUCA Annual Assessment Calculation (January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018)

2018 Member Office Budget *	\$ 815,273
2018 Assessment Rate: 0.3974%	x .003974
Variable Amount: (Minimum = \$993, Maximum = \$10,597)	\$ 3240.00
Flat Fee: Federal Advocacy Fund	+ \$600.00
Total 2018 Assessment Amount Due: (Minimum = \$1,593, Maximum = \$11,197)	\$ 3840.00

Make checks payable to: NASUCA, payable in U.S. funds only

Mail checks to:

Nicole Haslup
Deputy Director
NASUCA
8380 Colesville Road, Suite 101
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

(If you pay electronically, please send Nicole an email to let her know a hard copy check will not be submitted. Email Nicole at NASUCA@NASUCA.org)

* Assessments shall be based upon the member's documentable annual appropriation or approved operating budget which reflects all direct and indirect utility related regulatory, legislative, administration and educational funding (NASUCA By-Laws, Article VI, Section 4)