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**NATIONAL COUNCIL
ON ELECTRICITY POLICY**

NARUC Commissioner-Emeritus ToNola Brown-Bland Honored with the National Council on Electricity Policy Brinch Award for Collaboration in Public Service

WASHINGTON (November 7, 2024) — At its annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, on October 29 and 30, 2024, the National Council on Electricity Policy presented the Jan Brinch Award for Collaboration in Public Service to ToNola Brown-Bland, deputy commissioner at the North Carolina Industrial Commission and former NARUC commissioner.

The award recognizes Brown-Bland's exceptional commitment to enhancing partnerships in public service through her more than 20 years of dedicated work in the state of North Carolina.

"I am honored to receive the Jan Brinch Award for Collaboration in Public Service," said Brown-Bland. "This recognition reflects not just my efforts, but the collective work of all who strive to enhance partnerships and break down siloed thinking that can actually hinder advancements in the electricity sector."

Her work at the Greensboro, North Carolina, City Attorney's Office; the North Carolina Department of the Secretary of State; the North Carolina Utilities Commission, where she served as a commissioner for 14 years; and most recently, at the North Carolina Industrial Commission, has had far-reaching positive impacts on the businesses and residents of her state and beyond.

Exemplifying this impact is Brown-Bland's participation in NCEP from 2018 to 2023, serving as president from 2022 to 2023 and her focus on changes designed to increase collaboration and sharing of knowledge among multi-agency state and federal-level decision-makers whose work contributes to and impacts national electricity policy.

She implemented an expansion of the NCEP executive committee to bring more representatives from NCEP member agencies into the discussion, encouraged collaboration with and among staff members and contributed to the production of educational resources demonstrative of ways to reap the benefits of NCEP member agencies coming together to understand their varied perspectives.

Under her leadership, previous NCEP annual meetings explored collaborative approaches to addressing immediate and long-term electricity affordability issues, which supported the formation of the agenda for the 2024 annual meeting.

"Commissioner Brown-Bland exemplifies the spirit of collaboration that the Brinch Award celebrates," said NCEP Chair and Commissioner Marissa Paslick Gillett of the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. "Her unwavering dedication to fostering partnerships and promoting education among NCEP members has set a standard for public service. We are proud to honor her contributions and the legacy of Jan Brinch, which continues to inspire our efforts in the electricity sector."

The Brinch Award was established by NCEP in 2019 to honor Jeannette “Jan” Brinch (née Katz) and recognize public servants who, like her, see their roles as opportunities to unite people in pursuit of public interest goals within the electricity sector. Jan played a vital role in facilitating NCEP from 2014 to 2018. In her memory, her family created a [dedication video](#).

To learn more about NCEP, visit <https://www.naruc.org/ncep/ncep-home/>.

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About NCEP

The National Council on Electricity Policy (NCEP) is a platform for all state-level electricity decision-makers to share and learn from diverse perspectives on the evolving electricity sector. The NCEP community includes representatives from state public utility commissions, air and environmental regulatory agencies, governors’ staffs, state energy offices, state legislatures, and consumer advocates.