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**NAESB Chairman Commends FERC Chairman Pat Wood III
For Involvement in NAESB and Support of Organization's Mission**

HOUSTON—North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) Chairman Mark Maassel today thanked Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Pat Wood III for his active involvement in NAESB and his support of the organization's mission.

"Chairman Wood has been a true champion of NAESB's efforts to ensure open and competitive natural gas and electricity markets," said Maassel, president of Northern Indiana Public Service Co. "During his tenure as FERC chairman, NAESB completed the transition from a wholesale gas-only organization to one representing the entire natural gas and electricity industry, both wholesale and retail.

"With Chairman Wood's encouragement, NAESB's Wholesale Electric Quadrant was formed and issued its first standards; NAESB and the North

American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) began a historic alliance and worked together to create Version 0, the separation of the existing NERC reliability operating policies into NERC reliability standards and NAESB business practice standards; and NAESB's Wholesale Gas Quadrant and Wholesale Electric Quadrant have been working to improve communications between the natural gas and electric industries," Maassel said.

"We look forward to continuing to work with Chairman Wood as he completes his term and to continuing NAESB's strong working relationship with the FERC after his departure," Maassel said.

Wood announced this week that he will leave the commission when his term as chairman expires in June.

NAESB is an independent and voluntary North American organization that develops and promotes the use of business practices and electronic communications standards for the wholesale and retail natural gas and electricity industries. Its members include over 300 companies and organizations that participate actively in the retail and wholesale natural gas and electricity markets.

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