CONSUMER ADVOCATE
Donald M. Kreis

ASSISTANT CONSUMER ADVOCATE
Matthew J. Fossum

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE
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47

February 5, 2025

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to MOP 1200, I. D., authorize the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) to **RETROACTIVELY** pay the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) (Vendor #171638), Silver Spring, Maryland, the amount of $5,061.83 for calendar year 2025 membership dues effective upon Governor and Council approval for the period January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. 100% Other Funds (Utilities Assessments).

Funding is available in account, CONSUMER ADVOCATE, as follows:

	FY 2025
02-52-53-530010-18940000-026-500251 – Membership Fees	$5,061.83

EXPLANATION

This request is **RETROACTIVE** because the initial invoice was received after the January 1, 2025, effective date. 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 44 states have similar offices. Utility regulation is complex and advancing consumer interests often requires multistate coordination and information-sharing. NASUCA is a national organization that brings together the expertise and experience of all the member states' consumer advocates. 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 61 consumer advocates in 45 states and the District of Columbia, Barbados, Puerto Rico, and Jamaica. 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. The cost of these trainings is included in the annual dues.
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, Donald M. Kreis participates in the NASUCA "Head of Office" forum and the Electric and Distributed Energy Resources 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.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Kreis
Consumer Advocate

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES NASUCA

January 13, 2025

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

At the NASUCA Annual Meeting held in November 2024, the membership approved its annual budget and 2025 dues. The annual dues assessment for NASUCA Full Members remains the same as last year at .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 2025 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 Nicole Haslup, NASUCA Deputy Director at 301-589-6313 or nasuca@nasuca.org

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

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Patrick Cicero

Patrick Cicero (PA)
NASUCA Treasurer

2025 INVOICE: NASUCA FULL MEMBER

January 13, 2025

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

2025 NASUCA Annual Assessment Calculation
(January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025)

2025 Member Office Budget *	$ 1,122,755
2025 Assessment Rate: .3974%	**x .003974**
Variable Amount: (Minimum = $993, Maximum =$10,597)	$ 4,461.83
Flat Fee: Federal Advocacy Fund	+ $600.00
Total 2025 Assessment Amount Due: (Minimum = $1,593, Maximum =$11,197)	$ 5,061.83

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 would like to pay electronically, please 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)