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MEDIA ALERT

Governor Huntsman appoints Michele Beck to Committee of Consumer Services ***"Huntsman says Beck's 11 years of utilities experience will protect public interest"***

(For immediate release...)

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah – Governor Jon Huntsman announced today that he has appointed Michele Beck as Staff Director for the Committee of Consumer Services. After interviewing two accomplished individuals selected by the search committee, the Governor chose Michele Beck, a former Utahn and utilities professional, as his top tier candidate for the Committee's position. Beck's professional background includes five years working as a consumer advocate for the Minnesota Department of Commerce, five years working as rate regulation analyst at a large generation and transmission electric cooperative and current experience as a resource planning analyst at an investor-owned utility in Minnesota. Michele Beck's name will now be sent to the Committee of Consumer Services for their confirmation.

"After an exhaustive search, I am pleased to appoint Michele Beck to lead the Committee of Consumer Services," said Governor Jon Huntsman, "I am fully confident she will make an excellent Director for the Committee and that Michele's extensive background both as a consumer advocate and professional in the utilities industry will greatly serve the people of Utah."

"Our search committee lends its unanimous support to the Governor's decision and I look forward to bringing Michele's name before the Committee of Consumer Services" said Dee Jay Hammon, present Chairman of the CCS.

Candidates for the Staff Director position were selected through a nationwide search conducted by the advisory panel which included Utah State Representative J. Stuart Adams (R), Davis County; Claire Geddes, consumer advocate; Francine Giani, Executive Director of the Utah Department of Commerce; Utah State Senator Karen Hale (D), Salt Lake County; Dee Jay Hammon, present Chairman of the CCS; and Dr. Laura Nelson, Governor Huntsman's Energy Advisor.

The Committee for Consumer Services was established in 1977 and is Utah's utility consumer advocate. The Committee represents residential, small community and agricultural consumers of natural gas, electricity and telephone service mainly before the Utah Public Service Commission.

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