



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 5, 2015

CONTACT: Rebecca Wilder (602) 542-0844

Susan Bitter Smith Named Chair of Corporation Commission

PHOENIX, AZ—Following a swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected members of the Corporation Commission, Doug Little and Tom Forese, the Commission today voted to name Susan Bitter Smith as Chair of the Commission. Bitter Smith was elected to the Commission in 2012 and her term as Chair will be two years.

“I am so very pleased to pass the gavel to one of Arizona’s keenest policy minds, my friend Susan Bitter Smith,” said **outgoing Chairman Bob Stump**. “The Commission will be in good hands.”

“Commissioner Bob Stump has done a tremendous job of leading the Commission through two extremely busy and very visible years. Under his leadership, the Commission was the first state in the country to deal with the issue of cost shifting of the operation and maintenance of Arizona’s power grid due to increasing solar demand and has made historic policy changes that will positively impact Arizona’s water future,” said **Chairman Susan Bitter Smith**. “I am honored to have been selected as the new Chairman of an outstanding group of Commissioners. I know I have big shoes to fill, but am confident with the help of the talented members of the Commission and our staff, we can continue to move Arizona forward to insure that we have reliable and affordable utility services for all the residents of our State”

Since taking office, Bitter Smith has focused on working with her colleagues to enact policy reforms that reduce rate shock and allow companies to conduct infrastructure maintenance and upgrades that are needed to ensure continuity and reliability for Arizona’s public utility customers, particularly Arizona’s small water companies. She is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners, currently serving on NARUC’s Water Committee as well as the Subcommittee on Education and Research, and is the President of the Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners.

A native of Arizona, Bitter Smith has served as a member of the Scottsdale City Council and was Vice Mayor. She served two six-year terms as an elected member of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District Board of Directors, having served the last four as President of the Board (the first woman to hold this position). She is a founding member of “Women in Water”, a local group of women involved in water policy. Bitter Smith has served as Executive Director of the Southwest Cable Communications Association since 1980 and as Vice President of Technical Solutions since 1988. She earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Business Administration from Arizona State University and is a Past Chairman of the ASU Alumni Association.

###