

Written Testimony of David LaCerte
Nominee to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
before the
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
September 4, 2025

Thank you, Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and members of the Committee. It's an honor to appear before you today. I humbly come before you as President Trump's nominee for Commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I first would like to recognize some core figures in my life. Without their support, this nomination would never be possible.

First, I'd like to acknowledge my wife, Emily. She is uniquely special in so many ways. She forever inspires me with her kindness, her wisdom, but most of all her passion for life. She encourages me to continue my public service, and I would most certainly not be here today without her positive influence. I want to thank my children and my stepchildren who are with me today, Ava, Margaret, Louisiana, and Robert. Every day over the past eight months I have fought to make America a better place to live, to work, to raise a family, and to prosper. We do this not only for my children but for everyone's children, and their generations to come.

I want to directly acknowledge the burden carried by the families of our public servants. These burdens are heavy, and the patience and grace given to me by my children carries me through the demanding days of life as an appointee. Thank you to my parents, Steve and Carol, who are watching at home and raised me up until the day I was handed off to Uncle Sam.

Thank you to those present and watching at home who fought alongside me in the United States Marine Corps. The Marine Corps and our shared ethos have made me into the man that stands before you today. Thank you to those currently serving, and especially those who gave their last full measure of devotion to their country and never made it home. You're a guiding light in my life and it's my honor to carry your legacy.

I have been a public servant for most of my career and I have sworn an oath to the constitution on many occasions. I have led infantry Marines in the invasion and occupation of Afghanistan. I have led state and federal agencies, including an independent agency under both the Trump and Biden administrations. I have practiced law at one of the oldest and most respected energy law firms in the country. This unique experience has afforded me an understanding of the intersections of government and industry which has well prepared me for the role in which I am considered before this honorable committee.

Today FERC is at a historic crossroads. The demand for energy is growing and the infrastructure which has allowed this country to thrive for so many decades needs continued investment. The challenge of increasing the reliability and resiliency of our grid while simultaneously protecting our ratepayers has never been a more important balance. It's a foundation that is built brick by brick, decision by decision. Artificial Intelligence, data centers, and reindustrialization present a compounding of these issues which will require diligent planning, forecasting, and regulatory

oversight from both the states as well as FERC. This is a challenge that must be met and cannot be delayed.

The administrative burden placed upon those who seek to invest in our infrastructure is staggering. Delays in federal reviews and decision making make energy less reliable and more expensive. Reducing processing time and the associated administrative burden will speed projects along, allowing those cost savings to be passed to ratepayers. I believe my background as a government executive and my experience as an environmental attorney provide strong qualifications and a fresh perspective on these challenges before FERC.

The outstanding career staff at FERC cannot do this alone. As this Committee has noted, FERC is most functional with a fully seated board of complementary Commissioners, prepared to work together, along with stakeholders, to develop solutions for the problems of today and tomorrow. Once again, Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you, and I look forward to your questions.