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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
 ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6150

WWW.ENERGY.SENATE.GOV

President Donald J. Trump
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
 Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has been operating without a quorum since February 3 when Commissioner Bay resigned after you replaced him as Chair. We write to request that you act to restore the quorum by nominating individuals that will honor the Commission's statutory missions to ensure that jurisdictional rates are just and reasonable, prohibit market manipulation, protect electric grid reliability, oversee energy infrastructure development in a balanced manner and provide for the licensing and safe operation of many of our nation's hydroelectric dams. We also ask that you consult with Senate Republicans and Democrats to select nominees of both parties to serve on the Commission which is consistent with both the requirements of the Department of Energy Organization Act and the long-standing tradition of the Senate.

FERC plays a significant role in our nation's energy economy. For instance, the Commission oversees the rates and terms associated with wholesale electric sales and the interstate transmission of electricity and natural gas and oil via pipelines. FERC also has responsibility for determining whether certain energy infrastructure, such as natural gas pipelines and liquefied natural gas facilities are needed and consistent with the public interest. In addition, the Commission is responsible for hydroelectric dam licensing and safety. Although FERC has been able to continue to function pursuant to an order issued before Commissioner Bay resigned delegating certain authorities to staff, some decisions require a vote of at least three commissioners and thus will be delayed until a quorum is restored.

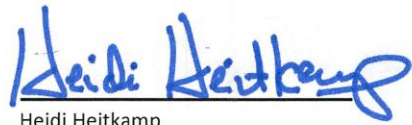
FERC has a long tradition of bipartisanship. In fact, most Commission votes are unanimous. In 2016, less than two percent of the orders issued included a dissenting opinion. We hope that your nominees will be prepared to continue this tradition and we intend to review them through that lens during the confirmation process.

By law, not more than three members of FERC may be members of the same political party. In nominating Commission members who are not members of the President's party, both Republican and Democratic Presidents have nominated people recommended by the Senate leader of the opposing party. We expect you will honor this long-standing practice in nominating individuals to serve on the Commission.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator




Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



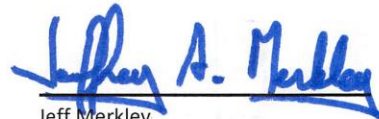
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



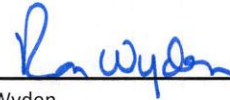
Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



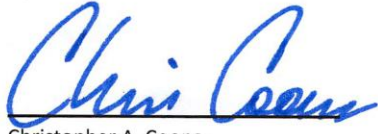
Joe Manchin III
United States Senator



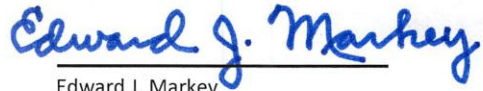
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



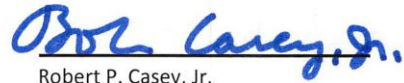
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator