

Written Testimony of David Rosner
Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
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Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich and Members of the Committee:

I am honored to appear before you today alongside my colleagues to discuss FERC's work to deliver affordable and reliable energy for all Americans and our commitment to upholding Congress's vision for a bipartisan, independent, resource-neutral regulator. It is an honor to serve the country in this capacity.

This mission entrusted to us, while simple to articulate, is increasingly complex to execute. Energy demand continues to grow at a pace not seen in a generation, driven by growth in new industries, like artificial intelligence, by reshoring manufacturing, and by changing patterns of energy use in homes and businesses. Energy technologies are evolving, reshaping how energy infrastructure is planned, built, and used by all types of consumers. And we face these changes at a time when families and small businesses struggle with high prices for essential services—including in their utility bills.

While meeting this moment presents challenges, it also creates opportunities for us to modernize our nation's energy infrastructure. Upgrading our energy system is necessary to ensure every American receives the reliable and affordable power on which they depend, and it is also essential to our country's economic competitiveness and national security.

With this in mind, I would like to highlight a few of the specific actions FERC is taking to confront the challenges and realize the opportunities before us:

First, we are accelerating the addition of new electric generation of all kinds: Building the energy resources needed to meet growing demand and reduce consumer costs is my top focus. We implemented FERC's landmark Order No. 2023 generator interconnection reforms and fast-tracked more than 50 gigawatts of shovel-ready power plants. Looking forward, I am encouraging grid operators to deploy automation and artificial intelligence tools that have been shown to accelerate steps in the interconnection study process from years to weeks.

Second, we are establishing forward-looking grid planning, centered around reliability, affordability, and economic growth: This year, FERC will begin acting on electric transmission providers' proposals to implement Order No. 1920, which modernized long-term transmission planning. When I arrived as a Commissioner, this rule was divided along party lines. Today, thanks to extensive state engagement and collaborative problem-solving, I am proud it is bipartisan and unanimously supported.

Third, we are emphasizing predictability, speed, and legal durability for infrastructure permitting: Since January 2025, FERC has issued over 120 permits for hydropower and natural gas projects, moving from NEPA review to final permit faster than any other agency in the

federal government and more than 30% faster than was typical during the last decade. Critically, we have done this without compromising quality—FERC’s permits have been routinely upheld in court in recent years. Looking to the future, permitting efficiency will become only more essential as demand growth accelerates.

Fourth, we are embracing innovative pathways to power data centers and other large loads while protecting consumers: One of the most significant developments in energy is the rapid growth of large loads. Over the last year the Commission has acted to ensure that demand growth leads to a more reliable, affordable, and sustainable grid—and that America can win the AI race without regular families paying for it.

At FERC, this is a top priority. In December and January, the Commission implemented programs in the PJM and SPP regions to pair new large loads with new generation. This pairing reduces how much these projects lean on the grid, minimizes the need to construct additional transmission upgrades, promotes flexible operations, and helps ensure that new loads pay their fair share.

In parallel, more than 30 states have adopted special retail rate structures for large loads—an important complement to FERC action and a reminder of the cooperative federalism needed to protect regular consumers.

Finally, building upon the progress and the record developed in response to Secretary Wright’s ANOPR, in June the Commission issued a show cause order to each regional grid operator asking them to modernize their rules for interconnecting large loads. The Commission’s orders are based upon four key pillars: protecting consumers, enhancing transparency, safeguarding reliability, and fostering innovation. Put simply, the goal is lowering costs, protecting grid reliability, and helping new customers and power plants get online faster.

Fifth, we continue to enhance grid security and reliability through modernization and flexibility: It is essential that we continue to deploy 21st-century reliability solutions, including advanced demand response, dynamic line ratings, predictive artificial intelligence, and emerging cybersecurity technologies. Last year, for example, FERC and NERC implemented enhanced power plant performance standards for extreme cold weather that have already proved essential in keeping the lights on during winter storms. And FERC’s work now includes robust reliability standards for large loads.

Sixth, we are staying laser-focused on energy affordability: In addition to the examples I have already mentioned, over the last two years, FERC has approved expanded competitive electric markets in the West and in the Southeast, which will enable customers to access lower-cost power. And in PJM we approved a temporary price cap that saved consumers more than \$25 billion. It is my priority to deliver more examples like this in 2026.

Finally, I will conclude by highlighting the value of our current Commission’s consensus-driven mindset. I am immensely proud that the vast majority of orders I have voted on have been bipartisan and unanimous, including every single energy project permit. This consensus ensures regulatory predictability, legal durability, and strong outcomes for all Americans,

informed by five distinct perspectives. I thank my colleagues for their collaboration, which I am confident will continue to deliver for our country.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today. I look forward to your questions.