



Electric
Reliability
Coordinating
Council

July 31, 2017

Sen. Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
S-230 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Need to Restore the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Quorum as Soon as Possible

Dear Leader McConnell:

We realize there are a number of important executive and judicial branch appointments that await final confirmation by the United States Senate. Article II, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution contemplates a serious and thorough process under which “the advice and consent of the Senate” is conferred. However, while the office of FERC Commissioner may not get the limelight of other appointments, the failure to promptly confirm sufficient Commissioners to restore a quorum to the FERC is creating a serious obstacle to critical infrastructure, energy independence, national security and protection of energy consumers like the millions we serve across the United States.

On June 6, 2017, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee advanced the nomination of two individuals for FERC Commissioner by a large bipartisan majority of 20 to 3. Rapid confirmation of these nominees would restore a quorum to FERC – absent for the first time in 40 years. A quorum is critical for the FERC to proceed on a range of vital functions, including approval of new natural gas pipelines and new liquid natural gas terminals. FERC has cancelled every monthly meeting since February.

The loss of quorum at FERC is critical for the entire economy. According to an analysis by Bloomberg, some \$50 billion in private capital is hamstrung for projects slowed or stopped without FERC approval. An additional \$25 billion in projects are just beginning the application process. Some 75,000 direct jobs are in jeopardy. Every week’s delay compounds the problem as seasonal windows for pipeline analyses close and potential for energy price spikes increase. In short, the failure to confirm sufficient FERC Commissioners to restore a quorum is a completely untenable situation that must be rectified immediately.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter of vital significance to our country and our economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Segal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Segal".

Scott Segal
Director

The members of ERCC are: Ameren Corporation, DTE Energy, Duke Energy, Salt River Project, Southern Company, and Vistra Energy.

For more information on this letter or other matters related to electric reliability and regulation, please contact Scott Segal, director, Electric Reliability Coordinating Council, at (202) 828-5845 or scott.segal@bracewell.com.