

VOICES

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For Immediate Release:

December 04, 2018

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Thousands Tell Senate to Reject B. McNamee as FERC Commissioner

Washington, D.C. – Over 64,000 people and 135 organizations are urging members of the Senate to reject Bernard McNamee, Donald Trump’s nominee as the next Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner. Opponents highlight McNamee’s vocal support of fossil fuels, as expressed in an opinion piece printed in *The Hill* and in a speech given at a Texas Public Policy Foundation event, where he extolled the virtues of fossil fuels, including fracked gas, and dismissed the power, possibility and values of clean energy solutions. McNamee’s nomination was approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on November 27, 2018 sending his nomination to the full Senate.

McNamee would fill the vacancy left by former Commissioner Robert Powelson who vacated the seat on August 10, 2018. The request to reject McNamee’s confirmation is complemented by an ask that Senators leave the seat vacant and instead encourage congressional hearings investigating the process FERC uses to review and approve interstate natural gas pipeline projects. The VOICES coalition has long expressed concern about FERC’s abuses of its power, detailed in a dossier of evidence demonstrating the abuses (<http://bit.ly/DossierofFERCAbuse>).

“Bernard McNamee isn’t just a fossil fuel advocate, he is radically opposed to environmental protection. In the recent video video obtained by [Utility Dive](#) he characterizes environmental protection laws and regulations as being tyrannical and crushing the American Spirit. McNamee’s opposition to protect our climate, environment, and the rights of the people is the true tyranny and there can be no justification for any Senator, especially not one that professes the importance of property rights, states’ rights and peoples’ rights, to vote in support,” said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, and a leading member of the VOICES coalition**, a national coalition opposing the advancement of FERC approved infrastructure and calling for Congressional hearings and FERC reform.

“Bernard McNamee should be an unacceptable nominee to all Senators, regardless of their party affiliation, because his presence at FERC would undermine its status as a Congressionally-mandated independent commission. He has no regulatory background and has, instead, devoted his career to doing the will of the fossil fuel industry and its most extreme supporters in our government. Senator Murkowski considers McNamee’s statements captured on video to be ‘unfortunate’. They are more than that. They are expressions of McNamee’s consistent position, one from which he will never deviate,” said **Karen Feridun, Founder of Berks Gas Truth, a member of the VOICES coalition.**

“FERC had best pay attention to Wendell Berry who says, ‘Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory, and a sterner sense of justice than we do.’ Mr. McNamee may be confirmed, but Nature will decide the justice of that decision and FERC's actions if it continues to lay fossil fuel pipes and ignore climate change. The UN IPCC has warned us. Our own government has warned us. FERC can no longer build up fossil fuel infrastructure and claim that they did not know its consequences. Even if FERC ignores the science, Nature will remember its own ways and act. In the final analysis Nature does not need me or my grandchildren to survive,” said **Stephen Cleghorn, owner of a 50-acre organic farm in western Pennsylvania, above the Marcellus & Utica shale.**

“Fossil fuel extraction is the wrong direction for our planet. Listen to the science, not McNamee. Oppose his appointment,” said **Howdy Henritz, President of the Indian Creek Watershed Association.**

“Bernard McNamee is the most nakedly corrupt, fossil fuel schill we’ve ever seen nominated for a post at the Federal energy Regulatory Commission. And that’s saying something,” said **Drew Hudson, founder of 198 methods.** “We know Lisa Murkowski and Mitch McConnell are bought by the fossil fuel industry, lock, stock and dirty fracking barrel. Now it’s up to the Chuck Schumer and the Democrats to show if they’re willing to fight or need a spinal-donation from the AOC wing of the party.”

See the 64,000+ signatures, including 135 organizations from across the nation, submitted by VOICES, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Berks Gas Truth, 198 methods, Beyond Extreme Energy, Climate Hawks Vote, Green America, and Friends of the Earth --all urging a “No” vote on McNamee, here: bit.ly/SenatorsVoteNoMcNamee

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