

For Immediate Release

March 1, 2017

Contact:

Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, Delaware Riverkeeper Network 215-801-3043

Ted Glick, Beyond Extreme Energy, 973-460-1458

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Letters from Congress Urging Trump to Restore FERC Commissioner Quorum Draws Swift Rebuke from 136 Organizations Representing Communities Nationwide

Responding to two letters sent by members of Congress urging President Donald Trump to prioritize nominating candidates for vacant Commissioner seats at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in order to restore the necessary voting quorum, 136 organizations representing communities in all 50 states sent a strong letter of rebuke to the Congressional signers of the letters.

The two letters, dated February 22, 2017, were signed by a group of 14 House Democrats on one and 92 additional members of Congress on the other. The letters urged Mr. Trump to put forth the nominations in order to restore the FERC Commissioner quorum necessary to take formal action on energy issues. In addition to urging swift action by the President, on one of the letters the Congressional members promised "to do our part", suggesting that they would likewise take swift action to approve nominees put forth by the President.

According to the letter of opposition signed by the 136 environmental and community organizations, reestablishing a quorum at FERC would re-open the floodgates for FERC approval of natural gas infrastructure and pipeline projects. The letter (*attached*) reads in part:

[W]e were deeply disturbed by your February 22, 2017 letter Rather than advocating for the installation of new FERC Commissioners, you should be doing all you can to forestall the nomination and approval process

Communities across the nation are being harmed by the indiscriminate, ill-informed and misguided approvals rolling out of FERC for natural gas infrastructure projects. ...

Until Congress has investigated the abuses of power and law by FERC, including the biased and self-serving decisionmaking advanced by its Commissioners and staff, and put in place needed reforms you should oppose restoration of a quorum of FERC Commissioners

"FERC is a biased and abusive agency that is the epitome of a rubber stamp when it comes to pipeline infrastructure projects," said **Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network**. "With this letter, House Democrats are showing that they would rather stand with the pipeline industry than protect the people they were elected to serve. We represent communities across the nation that are being hurt for a fossil fuel industry that needs to be retired, not reinvigorated with more pipelines," van Rossum added.

"Democrats and Republicans in Congress should get serious about taking action to protect the American people and our overheated planet. That means an investigation into FERC's abusive approach toward communities facing new gas pipelines and other gas infrastructure, followed by action. We don't need a FERC which rubber stamps new fossil fuel infrastructure; we need an agency that leads the urgently-needed shift from fossil fuels to clean and renewable energy sources like wind and solar," said **Ted Glick, representative of Beyond Extreme Energy**.

"FERC is a rogue agency that does nothing but push pipelines for the gas industry and they are out of control. FERC works for the gas companies and not the people of the United States. It's outrageous that the Democratic Congressmen want to empower FERC by allowing them to begin rubberstamping dangerous and devastating pipelines all over again. They're siding with Donald Trump and Big Gas companies over the people of the United States. All they're doing is enabling FERC to risk our water supply with fracking, destroy open space with pipelines, and add to climate change impacts. These Congressmen need to stand up for the people of the US, and for the environment, by opposing any nominations to FERC," said **Jeff Tittel, Director of the New Jersey Sierra Club**.

"Many aspects of the process used by FERC to approve infrastructure projects violates our Constitutional rights. This process needs to be reviewed by Congress and reforms put in place before a new Commissioner is confirmed," said **Paul Gierofsky with The Coalition to Reroute Nexus (CoRN)**.

"From the ancient origins of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in regions of the Middle East where water was scarce and wellsprings were sacred, to the struggle at Standing Rock in our own generation- religious and spiritual wisdom has said again and again: 'Water is Life!'. Yet today FERC has been encouraging the proliferation of pipelines bearing dangerous gases and oils that threaten the purity of our water and air and the health of all who live nearby, and through the process of CO2 and methane emissions have been worsening the climate crisis and its dangers to human communities and other life-forms throughout our planet. So The Shalom Center joins many other groups deeply rooted in our religious, spiritual and ethical traditions to urge that FERC's operations be held in suspension and its empty seats left unfilled while its policies and its connections to the companies it regulates are investigated," said **Rabbi Arthur Waskow from The Shalom Center**.

In addition to the regional and national organizations signed on to the letter, there are environmental and community groups representing communities in: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Washington DC.

Community Opposition letter and two Congressional letters are attached.

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*Delaware Riverkeeper Network ~ Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy
The Coalition to Reroute Nexus (CoRN) ~ Allegheny Defense Project
Coastal Monmouth Democratic Club ~ Gas Free Seneca ~ Cook Inletkeeper
Berks Gas Truth ~ Preserve Roanoke/Bent Mountain
Delaware Township Citizens against the PennEast Pipeline (DTCAP)
Save the River / Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper
Environmental Justice Task Force of the WNY Peace Center
Advocates for Springfield, NY ~ Sustainable Medina County ~ Earth Action, Inc.
Hill Town Community Rights ~ ECHO Action NH
Stop Fracking the Rio Grande Valley ~ Preserve Franklin
Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus ~ Prince William Soundkeeper
Safe Energy Rights Group, Inc. ~ Tristates Unite for Safe Energy
Protect Our Water Heritage Rights Coalition - POWHR
Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community ~ Beyond Extreme Energy
Greenbelt Climate Action Network ~ Patriots from the Oil and Gas Shales
Concerned Citizens of Otego NY ~ Complete It Cuomo
Farmers and Families for Livingston ~ Compressor Free Franklin
WNY Drilling Defense ~ People Over Pipelines ~
Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)
SCRAM ~ Marcellus Outreach Butler ~ 350Brooklyn.org
Concerned Burlington Neighbors ~ Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter ~ Orange Residents against Pilgrim Pipelines
Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Water and Air ~ Fossil Free Tompkins
Sierra Club West Virginia ~ Sustainable Warwick ~ Sane Energy Project
Exodus Acres ~ Catskill Mountainkeeper ~ Green Sanctuary Committee, CCNY, UU
Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA) ~ Popular Resistance
Elmirans and Friends against Fracking ~ No Fracked Gas in Mass
New York Climate Action Group ~ Coalition against the Rockaway Pipeline
We Are Seneca Lake ~ Deep Green Resistance New York
Bronx Climate Justice North
Already Devalued and Devastated Homeowners of Parsippany
Rainforest Relief ~ Peacemakers of Schoharie County
Union County (NJ) Peace Council ~ The AMP Creeks Council ~ Frack Busters NY
Novalia ~ Aquashicola/ Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy
Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline ~ Responsible-Pipeline.com
Rochester Pachamama Alliance ~ Resist Spectra
Grassroots Environmental Education ~ NY Water Action
Howard County (MD) Climate Action ~ Human Essentials ~ Sierra Club
Voters Occupy ~ Cleveland Environmental Action Network
Marsha De Broske Fine Arts ~ Plymouth Friends of Clean Water
Occupy Bergen County ~ Summit County Progressive Democrats
Sullivan Area Citizens for Responsible Energy Development*

**Schuylkill Pipeline Awareness ~ Advocates for Cherry Valley ~ We Are Cove Point
Landscape Alternatives, LLC ~ The Wei ~ People Over Pipelines Chesterfield, NJ
Preserve Montgomery County Virginia ~ Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
Citizens for Water ~ NYH2o ~ Concerned Residents of Oxford ~ 350NYC
Rochester Defense against Fracking ~ People, Not Pipelines
Island Time of Hollywood ~ DF Blazer Sales & Warehouse
Winyah Rivers Foundation, Inc. ~ Parsons School of Design
Holland Township Citizens against the Pipeline
Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA) ~ Suwannee Riverkeeper
Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT) ~ Climate 911
Breathe Easy Susquehanna County ~ Franciscan Response to Fracking
ROAR against Fracking ~ Summers County Residents Against the Pipeline
New Paltz Climate Action Coalition ~ Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Preserve Giles County ~ New Progressive Alliance ~ Food & Water Watch
The Throw Shop ~ Green America ~ Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources
Sandisfield Taxpayers Opposing the Pipeline (S.T.O.P) ~ Resist the Pipeline
BGSU Environmental Action Group ~ Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development
People Demanding Action ~ 350 Loudoun ~ FreshWater Accountability Project
Green Futures ~ Coalition for Responsible Siting of LNG Facilities
South Coast Neighbors United ~ Wilmerding & Hillier Associated Appraisers LLC
Northjersey Pipeline Walkers ~ Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment
The Shalom Center ~ Mothers Out Front ~ ClimateMama
Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance ~ SnakeCharmer Herpetological**

Date: March 1, 2017

To:

Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy III
Rep. Paul D. Tonko
Rep. William R. Keating
Rep. John P. Sarbanes
Rep. James P. McGovern
Rep. Michael E. Capuano
Rep. Stephen F. Lynch
Rep. Niki Tsongas
Rep. Peter Welch
Rep. Seth Moulton
Rep. Diana DeGette
Rep. Katherine M. Clark
Rep. Richard E. Neal
Rep. Bobby L. Rush
Rep. Tim Walberg
Rep. Fred Upton

Rep. Steve Scalise
Rep. John Shimkus
Rep. Joe Barton
Rep. Tim Murphy
Rep. Marsha Blackburn
Rep. Sam Graves
Rep. Mike Johnson
Rep. Kevin Cramer
Rep. Randy Weber
Rep. David McKinley
Rep. Ryan Costello
Rep. Gene Green
Rep. Bob Gibbs
Rep. Gregg Harper
Rep. Kevin Yoder
Rep. Adam Kinzinger

Rep. Ann Wagner
Rep. Bill Flores
Rep. Patrick Meehan
Rep. Buddy Carter
Rep. Tom MacArthur
Rep. Jerry McNerney
Rep. Billy Long
Rep. Bill Johnson
Rep. Steve Stivers
Rep. Jason Smith
Rep. Gus Bilirakis
Rep. Vicky Hartzler
Rep. Pete Olson
Rep. Roger Marshall
Rep. Dave Trott
Rep. Mike Bost
Rep. Lynn Jenkins
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II
Rep. Donald Norcross
Rep. Debbie Dingell
Rep. Joe Wilson
Rep. Rodney Davis
Rep. Mark Pocan
Rep. Scott Perry
Rep. Trent Kelly
Rep. Daniel Lipinski
Rep. Ken Buck
Rep. Richard Hudson
Rep. Mo Brooks
Rep. Kurt Schrader
Rep. Cedric Richmond
Rep. Steve Womack
Rep. Garret Graves
Rep. Mike Rogers
Rep. Charles Dent
Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer

Rep. Mike Doyle
Rep. Scott Peters
Rep. Susan W. Brooks
Rep. Bennie G. Thompson
Rep. Bill Huizenga
Rep. Mimi Walters
Rep. John Moolenaar
Rep. Markwayne Mullin
Rep. Jack Bergman
Rep. Bruce Westerman
Rep. John Katko
Rep. Steven Palazzo
Rep. Mike Bishop
Rep. Randy Hultgren
Rep. Darin LaHood
Rep. David Rouzer
Rep. Paul Mitchell
Rep. Doug Lamborn
Rep. Bradley Byrne
Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger
Rep. Ben Ray Lujan
Rep. Larry Bucshon
Rep. Jody Hice
Rep. Ralph Abraham
Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler
Rep. Clay Higgins
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee
Rep. Rick Crawford
Rep. Jim Costa
Rep. Yvette D. Clarke
Rep. David Scott
Rep. Doug LaMalfa
Rep. Chris Collins
Rep. Scott Tipton
Rep. Paul Gosar
Rep. Evan Jenkins

Cc:

Chairman Fred Upton, House Energy & Commerce Committee
Ranking Member Frank Pallone, House Energy & Commerce Committee
Members of House Energy & Commerce Committee
Chairman Lisa Murkowski, Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
Ranking Member Maria Cantwell, Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
Members of Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources

Dear Congressional Representatives,

On behalf of communities across the nation who are being abused by the misuse of power and law by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), we were deeply disturbed by your February 22, 2017 and February 28, 2017 letters urging swift nomination and approval of new FERC Commissioners.

Rather than advocating for the installation of new FERC Commissioners, you should be doing all you can to forestall the nomination and approval process. Without a quorum FERC cannot issue Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity to natural gas infrastructure projects using its abusive, biased and conflict-ridden review and approval process for which the approval is a foregone conclusion and not the result of objective consideration of facts, impacts and need.

Communities across the nation are being harmed by the indiscriminate, ill-informed and misguided approvals rolling out of FERC for natural gas infrastructure projects. FERC has proven itself to be an agency with unparalleled bias – approving every natural gas interstate transmission line brought before its Commissioners for approval. In 30 years FERC's Commissioners have said "no" to only one, just one, gas pipeline project brought before it for approval. Not only are communities being harmed by the pipelines themselves, but they are being mistreated by FERC throughout the review process.

Until Congress has investigated the abuses of power and law by FERC, including the biased and self-serving decisionmaking advanced by its Commissioners and staff, and put in place needed reforms you should oppose restoration of a quorum of FERC Commissioners. Among the many reforms that must be undertaken before a quorum is restored are: the removal of eminent domain power; a prohibition on the use of tolling orders that prevent legal challenges to FERC approvals before pipelines go into construction; a prohibition on the stripping and undermining of state legal authority by FERC; a mandatory public participation process that provides for meaningful access and input; a mandatory determination that there is a genuine need for a project that genuinely serves the public interest (as opposed to corporate greed and goals); a prohibition on the use of consultants that have conflicts of interest and/or work for the industry; a prohibition on self-dealing by the pipeline companies in their claims of need; an end to the employee revolving door between FERC staff and the industry; a clear and enforced prohibition on conflicts of interest by FERC Commissioners just to name a few.

In order to genuinely serve the public interest you must take a strong stand against approval of any new Commissioners to FERC until such time as the House and Senate have held hearings investigating the bias and misuse of authority demonstrated by FERC, its employees and Commissioners and needed reforms have been identified, proposed and passed.

Signed,

Maya K. van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, for the Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Representing communities in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware

Jill Wiener, Co-founder, for the Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy
Representing communities in New York

Paul L. Gierosky, Cofounder, for The Coalition to Reroute Nexus (CoRN)
Representing communities in Ohio and Michigan

Ryan Talbott, Executive Director, for the Allegheny Defense Project
Representing communities in Pennsylvania

Kathy Maher, President, for the Coastal Monmouth Democratic Club
Representing communities in New Jersey

Yvonne Taylor, Vice President, for Gas Free Seneca
Representing communities in New York

Bob Shavelson, Inletkeeper, for the Cook Inletkeeper
Representing communities in Alaska

Karen Feridun, Founder, for Berks Gas Truth
Representing communities in Pennsylvania

Roberta Bondurant, Community Advocate, for Preserve Roanoke/Bent Mountain
Representing communities in Virginia

Debra Bradley, Secretary, for the Delaware Township Citizens Against the PennEast Pipeline (DTCAP)
Representing communities in New Jersey

Lee Willbanks, Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper / Executive Director, for Save The River / Upper St.
Lawrence Riverkeeper
Representing communities in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Florida, Arizona,
Colorado, California, Oregon, Washington, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

Charley Bowman, Co-Chair, for Environmental Justice Task Force of the WNY Peace Center
Representing communities in New York

Tara Sumner, Vice President, for Advocates for Springfield, NY
Representing communities in New York

Katharine Jones, Organizer, Sustainable Medina County
Representing communities in Ohio

Mary Gutierrez, Executive Director, for Earth Action, Inc.
Representing communities in Florida, Colorado, California

Delta Carney, Hill Town Community Rights
Representing communities in Massachusetts

Stephanie Scherr, Founder, for ECHO Action NH
Representing communities in New Hampshire

Elaine Cimino, Director, for Stop Fracking the Rio Grande Valley
Representing communities in New Mexico

Darlene Hines, for Preserve Franklin
Representing communities in Virginia

Steve Holecko, Political Director, for Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus
Representing communities in Ohio

Kate McLaughlin, President, for Prince William Soundkeeper
Representing communities in Alaska

Nancy Vann, President, for Safe Energy Rights Group, Inc.
Representing communities in New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island

Tom Denny, Chair, for Tristates Unite for Safe Energy
Representing communities in New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey

Ellen Darden, Co-Chair, Protect Our Water Heritage Rights Coalition - POWHR
Representing communities in Virginia and West Virginia

Paul V. Ferrazzi, Executive Director, for Citizens Coalition for a Safe Community
Representing communities in California

Lee Stewart, Organizer, for Beyond Extreme Energy

Lore Rosenthal, Program Coordinator, for Greenbelt Climate Action Network
Representing communities in Maryland

Craig Stevens, Founder, for Patriots From The Oil And Gas Shales
Representing communities in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, Florida

Stuart Anderson, Community Organizer, Concerned Citizens of Otego NY
Representing communities in New York

Christine Macpherson, Founder, for Complete It Cuomo
Representing communities in New York

Pamela Kline, Founder, for Farmers and Families for Livingston
Representing communities in New York

Donald A. Hebbard, President / Founder, for Compressor Free Franklin
Representing communities in New York

Frank Gage, Environmental Justice Task Force Co-Chair, WNY Drilling Defense
Representing communities in New York

Glenn Ashton, Treasurer, for People Over Pipelines
Representing communities in New Jersey

Susan Van Dolsen, Cofounder, for Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE)
Representing communities in New York and Connecticut

George Billard, Founding Member, for SCRAM
Representing communities in New York and Pennsylvania

Diane Sipe, President, for Marcellus Outreach Butler
Representing communities in Pennsylvania

Sara S. Gronim, Co-Leader, for 350Brooklyn.org
Representing communities in New York

Suzy Winkler, Co-founder, Concerned Burlington Neighbors
Representing communities in New York

Marie McRae, Spokesperson, for Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition
Representing communities in New York

Randolph Hurst, Chairman of the Ramapo/Catskill Conservation Group, for Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter
Representing communities in New York

Sandra Kissam, Chair, for Orange Residents Against Pilgrim Pipelines
Representing communities in New York State

Jenny Lisak, Co-director, for Pennsylvania Alliance for Clean Water and Air
Representing communities in Pennsylvania

Irene Wesier, Coordinator, for Fossil Free Tompkins
Representing communities in New York

Chris Hale, Chair of Conservation Committee, for Sierra Club West Virginia
Representing communities in West Virginia

Russ Layne, Infrastructure Committee Co-Chairman, for Sustainable Warwick
Representing communities in New York

Kim Fraczek, Co-Director, for the Sane Energy Project
Representing communities in New York

M Neville Wall, Owner, for Exodus Acres
Representing communities in Massachusetts

Wes Gillingham, Program Director, for Catskill Mountainkeeper
Representing communities in New York

Gusti Bogok, Chair, for Green Sanctuary Committee, CCNY, UU
Representing communities in New York

Joelle Novey, Director, for Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)
Representing communities in Maryland, Washington DC, and Virginia

Margaret Flowers, Co-director, for Popular Resistance
Representing communities in nationwide

Doug Couchon, for Elmirans and Friends Against Fracking
Representing communities in New York

Rosemary Wessel, Founder / Director, for No Fracked Gas in Mass
Representing communities in Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire

Judith K. Canepa, Co-Founder, for New York Climate Action Group
Representing communities in New York

Judith K. Canepa, Coordinator, for Coalition Against the Rockaway Pipeline
Representing communities in New York

Peter Drobny, WASL Liaison, for We Are Seneca Lake
Representing communities in New York

Mike Bucci, Campaigns Coordinator, for Deep Green Resistance New York

Jennifer Scarlott, Coordinator, for Bronx Climate Justice North
Representing communities in New York

Ken Dolsky, Founder, for Already Devalued and Devastated Homeowners of Parsippany
Representing communities in New Jersey

Tim Keating, Director, for Rainforest Relief
Representing communities nationwide

Wayne Stinson, Action Committee Member, for Peacemakers of Schoharie County
Representing communities in New York

Diane Beeny, Chair, for Union County (NJ) Peace Council
Representing communities in New Jersey and New York

Kelly Canavan, President, for The AMP Creeks Council
Representing communities in the Mid-Atlantic

Mary Finneran, Founding Member and CC Member, for Frack Busters NY
Representing communities in New York

Sheila Bay, Program Director, for Novalia
Representing communities in New Hampshire

James Vogt, President, for Aquashicola/ Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy
Representing communities in Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Becky Meier, Co-Founder, for Stop NY Fracked Gas Pipeline
Representing communities in New York

Walter Helfrecht , Webmaster & I Public Relations Manager, for Responsible-Pipeline.com
Representing communities in New Jersey

Nancy Kasper Facilitator, for Rochester Pachamama Alliance
Representing communities in New York

Tina Volz-Bongar, Pipeline Monitor & Fundraising Coordinator, for Resist Spectra
Representing communities in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island

Patricia Wood, Executive Director, for Grassroots Environmental Education
Representing communities nationwide

Ann Finneran, Authorized Member, NY Water Action
Representing communities in New York

Elisabeth Hoffman, Advocacy Team Member, Howard County (MD) Climate Action
Representing communities in Maryland

Gloria Betlem, Owner, for Human Essentials
Representing communities in New York, Florida

Julia Howell, ARNP, for the Sierra Club
Representing communities in Florida

Noz Cavan, Founder, for Voters Occupy
Representing communities in New York

Anne Cat, Core Group Member, for Cleveland Environmental Action Network
Representing communities in Ohio

Marsha De Broske, for Marsha De Broske Fine Arts
Representing communities in Florida

Peter Hudiburg, Founder, for Plymouth Friends of Clean Water
Representing communities in New York

Sally Jane Gellert, Committee of Correspondence Chairperson, for Occupy Bergen County
Representing communities in New Jersey

Valerie McKittrick, Board Member, Summit County Progressive Democrats
Representing communities in Ohio

Larysa Dyrszka, Co-founder, for Sullivan Area Citizens for Responsible Energy Development
Representing communities in New York

Leah Zerbe, Co-Founder, for Schuylkill Pipeline Awareness
Representing communities in Pennsylvania

Lynn Ellen Marsh, Trustee, President, for Advocates for Cherry Valley
Representing communities in New York

Donny Williams, Organizer, for We Are Cove Point

Douglas DeLong, Partner, Owner, for Landscape Alternatives, LLC
Representing communities in New York

Kimi Wei, CEO, for the The Wei
Representing communities in New Jersey

Agnes Marsala, President, for People Over Pipelines Chesterfield, NJ
Representing communities in New Jersey

Thomas E Adams, III Chair, for Preserve Montgomery County Virginia
Representing communities in Virginia

B. Arrindell, Director, for Damascus Citizens for Sustainability
Representing communities in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, California

Joe Levine, Director, for Citizens For Water

Buck Moorhead, Chair, for NYH2o

Daniel Taylor, Co-founder, Concerned Residents of Oxford
Representing communities in New York

Pat Almonrode, Steering Committee Member, for 350NYC
Representing communities in New York

Toby Stover, Founding Member, for Rochester Defense Against Fracking
Representing communities in New York

Colleen McKinney, Cofounder, for People, Not Pipelines
Representing communities in New York

Tiffany Grantham, Owner, for the Island Time of Hollywood
Representing communities in Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Florida

Dawn Collier, Retail Territory Manager, for DF Blazer Sales & Warehouse

Christine Ellis, Deputy Director, for the Winyah Rivers Foundation, Inc.
Representing communities in North Carolina and South Carolina

Jess Irish, Professor, Parsons School of Design
Representing communities in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut

Lorraine Crown, Holland Township Citizens Against the Pipeline
Representing communities in New Jersey

Robert Cross, President, for the Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA)
Representing communities in Pennsylvania

John S. Quarterman, Suwannee Riverkeeper, for the WWALS Watershed Coalition
Representing communities in Georgia, Florida, California, and New York

Jane Winn, Executive Director, for Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT)
Representing communities in Massachusetts

Wendy Ring, Director, for Climate 911
Representing communities in Massachusetts, New York, Maryland, Vermont, Colorado, and Illinois

Rebecca Roter, Chairperson Co-Founder, for Breathe Easy Susquehanna County
Representing communities in Pennsylvania

Jackie Schramm, Coordinator, for Franciscan Response to Fracking
Representing communities in New Jersey

Allegra Schecter, Founder, for ROAR Against Fracking
Representing communities in New York

Chris Chanlett, Coordinating Committee, for Summers County Residents Against the Pipeline
Representing communities in West Virginia

Jo Salas, Member, for the New Paltz Climate Action Coalition
Representing communities in New York

Cheryl Nenn, Riverkeeper, for the Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Representing communities in Wisconsin

Richard Shingles, Coordinator, for Preserve Giles County
Representing communities in Virginia

Ed Griffith, Liason Officer, for New Progressive Alliance

Emily Wurth, Organizing Co-Director, for Food & Water Watch
Representing communities across the nation

Ben Calhoun, Owner, for The Throw Shop
Representing communities in Michigan

Todd Larsen, Executive Co-Director, for Green America
Representing communities nationwide

Rev. James Davis, Environmental Director, for the Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources
Representing communities in New York, New Jersey, South Dakota, Arizona, and New Mexico

Jean Atwater-Williams, Founding Member, for Sandisfield Taxpayers Opposing the Pipeline (S.T.O.P)
Representing communities in Massachusetts

James Michel, Co-founder, for Resist the Pipeline
Representing communities in Massachusetts

Daniel R. Myers, E.A.G. President, for BGSU Environmental Action Group
Representing communities in Ohio

Linda Reik, Board of Directors member, Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development
Representing communities in New York

Andrea Miller, Executive Director, People Demanding Action
Representing communities nationwide

Amanda Tandy, Co-chair, for 350 Loudoun
Representing communities in Virginia

Lea Harper, Managing Director, FreshWater Accountability Project
Representing communities in Ohio

Joseph F. Carvalho, for Green Futures
Representing communities in Massachusetts

Joseph F. Carvalho, for Coalition for Responsible Siting of LNG Facilities
Representing communities in Massachusetts

Joseph F. Carvalho, for South Coast Neighbors United
Representing communities in Massachusetts

Ramona Hillier-O'Hara, for Wilmerding & Hillier Associated Appraisers LLC
Representing communities in New Jersey

Diane Wexler, Co-Founder, for the Northjersey Pipeline Walkers
Representing communities in New Jersey

Dave Reilly, Co-Founder, for the Citizen Coalition for Wildlife and Environment
Representing communities in New York

Rabbi Arthur Waskow, Director, for The Shalom Center
Representing communities in almost all US states

Neely Kelley, Mothers Out Front New York State Lead Organizer, for Mothers Out Front
Representing communities in New York

Harriet Shugarman, Executive Director, for ClimateMama

April Keating, President, Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance
Representing communities in West Virginia

Leigh McKay, Small Business Owner, RPt, HtL, for SnakeCharmer Herpetological
Representing communities in Florida

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 22, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

We are writing to request your immediate attention to the current vacancies at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the independent federal agency charged with overseeing the energy sector. Under federal law, in order to take formal action, FERC must have a minimum of three sitting commissioners. However, as of February, 3, 2017, FERC has only two commissioners. We request your prompt nomination of at least one individual to serve as commissioner who may be duly considered by the Senate.

A fully functioning and staffed Commission is critical to our economy, national security, infrastructure, and energy needs as a country. For the last several years, our offices repeatedly have raised concerns, including with the previous administration, about vacancies on the Commission. The Commission staff can address many of the actions filed, but federal statutes require the Commission to issue orders only by majority vote of at least three commissioners representing a quorum.

In FERC's nearly forty year history, it has never faced a situation where it is unable to act due to lack of a quorum. Though routine matters may be addressed at staff level, effectively, the most important actions will require at least three commissioners. Our energy sector will remain at a standstill without the Commission's ability to act.

Prior to former Chairman Bay's departure, the Commission issued an order delegating the staff additional powers in the absence of quorum. However, given the clarity of the FERC governing statutes and the uncharted territory we are currently exploring, we have significant concerns with the legal basis on which this order stands. A nomination and subsequent confirmation by the Senate would avoid protracted legal proceedings.

Energy policy is made at the local, state, regional, and federal levels. We have encouraged the entities that require FERC approval to delay filing new items with the Commission during this time. We also have offered legislation, which passed the House of Representatives on the first day of your administration, that would ensure all parties involved in the energy sector, consumers and industry alike, are able to raise adequate concerns at the administrative and judicial levels in the absence of an order issued by the Commission.

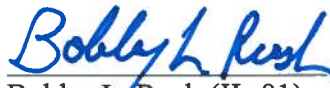
As members of Congress, we stand ready to do our part to ensure the functioning of the energy sector, but, respectfully, we cannot nominate new commissioners. For the sake of good governance, transparency, and proper oversight, we request you nominate a qualified individual as soon as possible to serve as a commissioner at FERC. We also request you work to fill the remaining vacant slots in short order to ensure the Commission is fully functioning and each filing is duly considered.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



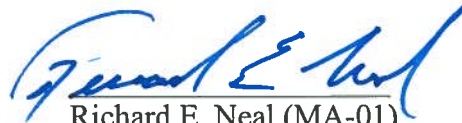
Joseph P. Kennedy, III (MA-04)
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush (IL-01)
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko (NY-20)
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal (MA-01)
Member of Congress



William R. Keating (MA-09)
Member of Congress



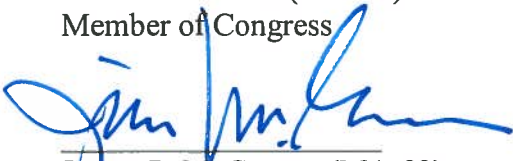
Katherine M. Clark (MA-05)
Member of Congress



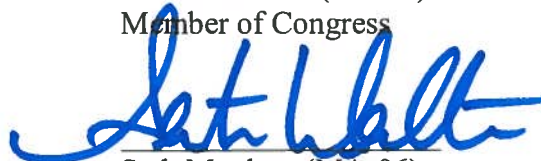
John P. Sarbanes (MD-03)
Member of Congress




Diana DeGette (CO-01)
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern (MA-02)
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton (MA-06)
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano (MA-07)
Member of Congress



Peter Welch (VT-AL)
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch (MA-08)
Member of Congress



Niki Tsongas (MA-01)
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2207

February 22, 2017

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

Mr. President,

We write to ask you to prioritize the nomination and confirmation of commissioners to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) so that the current standstill at the agency can quickly be resolved. Doing so will unlock and accelerate investments in our nation's energy infrastructure and will allow FERC to continue its important regulatory oversight responsibilities to ensure American consumers have access to reliable energy.

As a result of Commissioner Norman Bay's resignation, FERC is without a quorum, rendering it unable to serve its essential functions and effectively halting critical infrastructure investments to our nation's energy infrastructure.

Modernizing our energy infrastructure is vitally important to ensuring American families and businesses have access to safe, affordable, and reliable energy. We urge you to swiftly nominate commissioners to FERC and restore important progress on energy infrastructure development. The U.S. economy, families, businesses, and manufacturers will all benefit from energy investments made here at home, and ensuring FERC is immediately able to perform its core functions will help make this a reality.

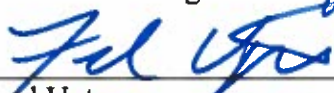
Sincerely,



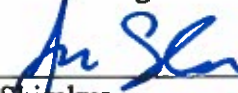
Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



John Shimkus
Member of Congress



Joe Barton
Member of Congress



Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

Marsha Blackburn

Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush

Bobby Rush
Member of Congress

Kevin Cramer

Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley

David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

Gene Green

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Gregg Harper

Gregg Harper
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

Bill Flores

Bill Flores
Member of Congress

Earl & Buddy Carter

Buddy Carter
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Sam Graves

Sam Graves
Member of Congress

MIKE JOHNSON

Mike Johnson
Member of Congress

Randy K. Weber

Randy Weber
Member of Congress

Ryan Costello

Ryan Costello
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

Kevin Yoder

Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

Patrick Meehan

Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress

Tom MacArthur


Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress

Billy Long

Billy Long
Member of Congress


Steve Stivers


Steve Stivers
Member of Congress


Jason Smith
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress


Roger Marshall
Member of Congress


Dave Trott
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress

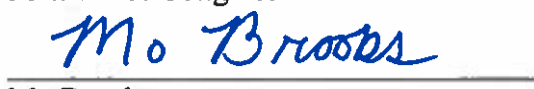

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress


Joe Wilson
Member of Congress


Mark Podan
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Ken Buck
Member of Congress


Mo Brooks
Member of Congress


Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Pete Olson
Member of Congress

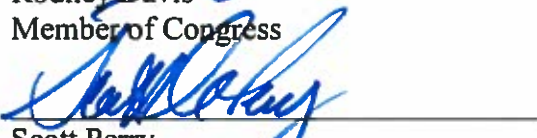

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

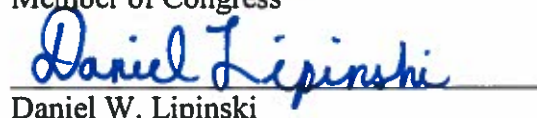

Mike Bost
Member of Congress

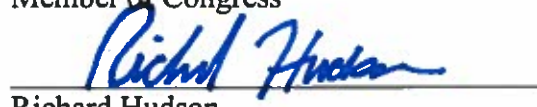

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress


Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress


Rodney Davis
Member of Congress


Scott Perry
Member of Congress


Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress


Richard Hudson
Member of Congress


Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Mimi Walters
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



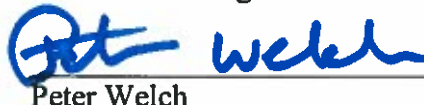
Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



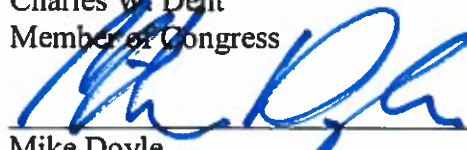
Steve Womack
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
Member of Congress



Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress



Mike Doyle
Member of Congress



Susan W. Brooks
Member of Congress



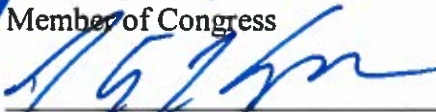
Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



Mike Bishop
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

David Rouzer

David Rouzer
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

C.A. Dutch Ruppensberger

Dutch Ruppensberger
Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon

Larry Bucshon
Member of Congress

Ralph Abraham

Ralph Abraham
Member of Congress

Clay Higgins

Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

Rick Crawford

Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress

Evan Jenkins

Evan Jenkins
Member of Congress

Paul Mitchell

Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress

Bradley Byrne

Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

Jody Hice

Jody Hice
Member of Congress

Jaime Herrera Beutler

Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Jim Costa

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

David Scott

David Scott
Member of Congress

Chris Collins

Chris Collins
Member of Congress

Paul Gosar

Paul Gosar
Member of Congress