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Coalitions: Senate Must Reject FERC Nominees in Wake of McIntyre Nomination

*White House Narrowly Interprets Parity Rule to Stack Deck with
Republicans*

*Trump Nominees Likely to Worsen FERC's Abuses. Senate Needs to
Engage in Hearings Re: FERC*

Washington, D.C. – The Trump administration's announcement that it will nominate attorney Kevin McIntyre to chair the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has bolstered the call of organizations representing communities from across the nation for the Senate to reject the nominees. More than 200 national, regional, state, and community-level groups has been pressuring the Senate reject the nominees until it investigates and addresses long-standing abuses of power at the Commission that are documented in a dossier (<http://bit.ly/DossierofFERCAbuse>) that has been presented to all Senators.

"McIntyre is the third Republican to be nominated to FERC by the Trump administration. By nominating three Republicans in a row and not one Democrat, the administration is making a literal interpretation of the rule that allows it to stack the deck with Republicans. Since the Commission can operate with a quorum of the full 5-member panel, a more equitable interpretation of the rule would be to maintain parity in the course of filling seats," says Karen Feridun, founder of Berks Gas Truth, a coalition member. **"The Senate must act to maintain parity if the White House will not."**

In June, the Trump administration indicated it would nominate Richard Glick, General Counsel for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, to the Commission. The administration has not made a formal nomination to date.

"Communities from across the nation have testified to the extreme abuses suffered as the result of FERC's misuse of power. Property rights are being taken, mature forests are being cut, farmers and businesses are losing their ability to profitably operate. Putting in place Trump's set of three from-the-industry nominees will make this already extreme abuse even worse. Offering the Democrats one token representative in Mr. Glick does nothing to protect the public or offer balance to the Commission. Rather than confirming more pro-industry Commissioners the Senate should be holding hearings into FERC's abuses of power and law" said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

“For communities facing pipelines and gas infrastructure projects, Trump's 3 pro-industry nominations to FERC presage a from-the-frying-pan-into-the-fire situation,” said Ted Glick, Organizer with the Beyond Extreme Energy coalition. **FERC has been a rogue agency under Democratic control for the last 8 years. It will be worse under Republican control. What is needed is a halt to FERC's rubber-stamping ways, Congressional hearings, and action by Congress to drain the FERC swamp.**

“We have petitioned our elected officials in Congress to hold hearings to expose the abuse of power and law by FERC. These hearings need to take place and appropriate reforms be put in place before any Commissioner is confirmed,” said Paul Gierosky, Leader of Coalition to Reroute Nexus (CoRN), an Ohio-based citizens’ group.

“The Trump Administration is clearly trying to stack the deck at FERC with nominees that it hopes will advance the interests of the fossil fuel industry at the expense of communities and the environment,” said Todd Larsen, Executive Co-director of Green America. **“At a time when the U.S. needs to be rapidly expanding 100% clean energy sources, these FERC nominees will move the country in the wrong direction.”**

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