

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 21, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to express our concern regarding the preservation of our nation's fuel-secure generation capacity and threats to the resiliency of the nation's electric grid. We must ensure that the grid provides affordable, reliable, and resilient electricity on a daily basis. As a matter of both national and economic security, the electric grid must have the resiliency to respond to extreme circumstances.

Fuel-secure baseload generators, primarily coal and nuclear, are under duress. An alarming number of coal and nuclear plants have closed prematurely and more are closing at a fast rate. This is especially true in the competitive, so-called merchant markets. The rate of plant closures has a compounding effect on grid resiliency – the ability to operate through an emergency or extreme conditions – by placing undue risk of severe consequences on the system.

Our nation's nuclear and coal plants are predominantly immune to short-term fuel supply disruptions, which makes them resilient. Evidence of how integral they are to the U.S. was demonstrated in 2014 when the Polar Vortex overstressed the grid, and many generation sources were unable to respond to power needs because of fuel supply disruptions. When the grid in much of the U.S. narrowly avoided operational failure, it was fuel-secure baseload power plants and not variable sources of electricity or those with interruptible fuel supplies that provided a resilient source of electricity.

A major factor putting coal and nuclear plants at a disadvantage are federal and state subsidies to intermittent power providers, making them artificially competitive. Additionally, government mandates for purchases of certain forms of electricity and excessive regulations on nuclear and coal providers negatively impact those resources' cost competitiveness. Adding to those headwinds, grid operators (Regional Transmission Organizations – RTOs) fail to create market rules that fairly compensate fuel-secure baseload generators for the resiliency they provide the grid. Coal and nuclear generators

maintain adequate fuel on-site to ride through an extended emergency, and do so without being compensated for that.

Beyond the risk injected into the electric grid carried over from the previous administration, there are national economic concerns at play too. If anti-resiliency bias within the RTOs' pricing models persists, thousands of workers and their families will be negatively affected. For generations, nuclear and coal have provided well-paying jobs in communities across America. Further plant closures will have huge negative economic effects, rippling across entire regions and drive up electric prices for ratepayers. Without your immediate help, these industries will not be able to provide the good jobs and the resilient electricity supply our nation currently has.

Mr. President, we are asking you to safeguard the grid's fuel security and direct the Secretary of Energy to exercise his Section 202(c) emergency powers under the Federal Power Act. We also request the Department of Energy evaluate the announced and expected retirement of additional fuel-secure baseload generation units and the potential national security and economic ramifications. Gambling with the resiliency of the electric grid is unnecessary and puts the safety of all Americans at risk.

We applaud the extraordinary efforts you have already made to help turn our nation's struggling economy around, especially for middleclass workers. We hope that you will recognize the immediate severity of this issue and will take appropriate action to safeguard the electric grid's resiliency.


Thank you for your leadership, and your efforts to ensure that our nation has a safe and resilient electric grid.

Sincerely,


Keith J. Rothfus
Member of Congress


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


Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senator


Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate Majority Leader



Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Alexander X. Mooney
Member of Congress



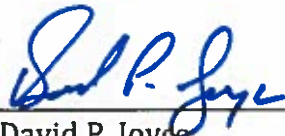
Andy Barr
Member of Congress



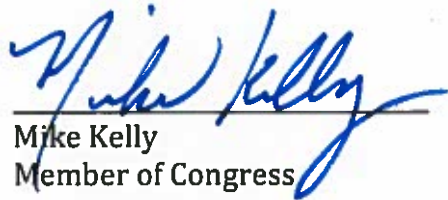
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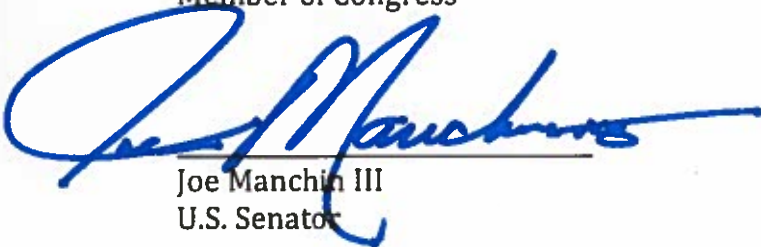
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U.S. Senator



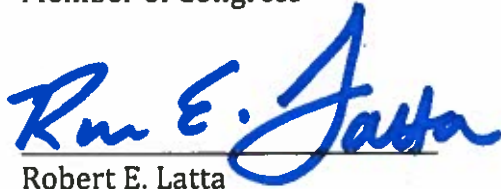
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Member of Congress



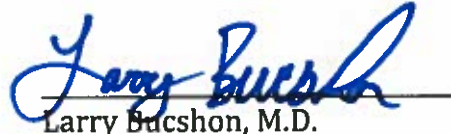
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