

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 30, 2019

The Honorable Neil Chatterjee
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Chatterjee:

We appreciate the Commission's attention on the difficult challenges facing the electricity grid. Central to those challenges is ensuring the grid is both reliable and resilient. Almost two years ago, FERC opened a docket titled *Grid Reliability and Resilience Pricing and Grid Resilience in Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators* ("resilience docket"). We urge the Commission to take meaningful and expeditious action on this issue, which is vital to America's economic and national security.

In September 2017, the Department of Energy recognized the seriousness and urgency of the situation the electric grid faces and released a notice of proposed rulemaking to address resilience and value fuel security. When this approach was rejected in January 2018, FERC instead opened a docket for a new proceeding to examine reliability and resilience, noting it "must remain vigilant with respect to resilience challenges, because affordable and reliable electricity is vital to the country's economic and national security."

To kick off the proceeding, FERC directed ISO/RTOs to respond to a series of questions regarding resilience. Two months later, FERC issued an order granting further time to consider responses to those questions. However, the Commission appears to have taken no other formal action since that time.

Fuel-secure sources of electricity are vital for grid resilience and reliability because they are less vulnerable to fuel supply disruptions. Yet, fuel-secure coal and nuclear plants are continuing to close at an alarming rate while the Commission waits to act.

As you are aware, in the last decade some 40 percent (126,000 megawatts) of the nation's coal fleet has retired or announced plans to retire. Since FERC opened its resilience docket almost two years ago, approximately 23,000 MW of coal-fired generation has shut down, and an additional 8,200 MW are expected to retire between now and the end of next year. Likewise, some 11,000 MW of nuclear capacity is expected to close between now and 2025.

The time for action is overdue. We urge you to revisit this issue and act in an urgent and thorough fashion. To that end, we request that you provide us the following updates on your progress:

- What work has the Commission completed on the resilience docket since spring of 2018?
- What are the next steps the Commission plans to take to address grid resilience?
- Is there a timeline for these next steps?

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to working with you on this matter and hearing an update on your work soon.

Sincerely,


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


Liz Cheney
Member of Congress


Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress


Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress

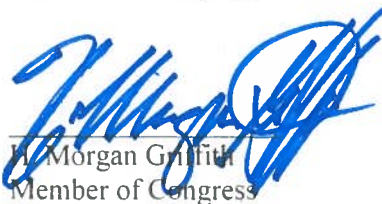

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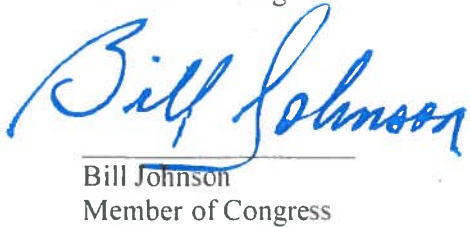

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