

## **Energy Supply Chain Workers and Industries Urge Immediate Senate Vote on FERC Nominees**

July 12, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell Majority Leader U.S. Senate Washington, D.C. 20510 The Honorable Charles Schumer Democratic Leader U.S. Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer,

The undersigned organizations, representing the energy infrastructure construction supply chain, and its workers and their families, urge you to take immediate action to effect Senate confirmation of the current nominees to positions as Commissioners of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The present lack of a FERC quorum is unnecessarily delaying vitally needed energy infrastructure projects, and is threatening jobs, investments, economic growth, America's environment and our energy security.

This situation has denied employment to over 50,000 construction workers, and thousands more who manufacture and supply the steel, equipment, concrete and aggregates, components and services these projects require. It has stranded hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of capital investment already made or pending, much of which by small businesses, to prepare the equipment and the support these projects' construction requires.

Lack of quorum has also raised energy costs to consumers, manufacturers and other businesses because of the restricted supplies of natural gas these delayed projects would alleviate. Finally, it has blocked or slowed transition to cleaner-burning fuel for power generation, and impaired the ability to incorporate renewables into the electric grid.

The above applies to infrastructure projects that have already successfully completed their required FERC staff reviews and are awaiting a Commission vote. Their construction would be well underway now but for lack of a FERC quorum. More troubling is the fact that several more critically needed major projects face similar delays as they too are well along in the FERC review process. Were this situation to persist because of lack of Senate action, these projects would also be jeopardized and the impacts to workers, businesses, communities and consumers mentioned above would be greatly magnified.

We urge you to allocate time on the Senate calendar for action on FERC Commissioner nominees at the earliest possible opportunity. Tens of thousands of workers' jobs and their families' well-being, along with benefits to consumers, industry and the environment, of adequate supplies of clean-burning, affordable and reliable natural gas, are dependent on your action.

Sincerely,



Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance
Toby Mack, President & CEO



American Iron and Steel Institute Thomas J. Gibson, President & CEO



American Rental Association
Tony Conant, Chief Executive Officer



Associated Equipment Distributors Brian P. McGuire, President & CEO



Association of Equipment Manufacturers Dennis Slater, President & CEO



American Council of Engineering Companies David A. Raymond, President & CEO



American Pipeline Contractors Association
J. D. Lormand, Executive Director



American Supply Association
Michael Adelizzi, Executive Vice President



Associated General Contractors of America Stephen Sandherr, Chief Executive Officer



Distribution Contractors Association Robert Darden, Executive Vice President



Industrial Minerals Association - North America Darrell Smith, Executive Vice President



The INGAA Foundation, Inc.
Donald F. Santa, President & CEO



International Union of Operating Engineers James T. Callahan, General President



Feel the Power

Jeny O'Sellman

Laborers' International Union of North America Terry O'Sullivan, General President



Material Handling Equipment Distributors Association Liz Richards, Chief Executive Officer



Metals Service Center Institute
M. Robert Weidner III, President & CEO



The Association for Hose and Accessory Distribution Joseph M. Thompson, Executive Vice President



National Electrical Contractors Association John M. Grau, Chief Executive Officer



National Industrial Sand Association
Darrell Smith, Executive Vice President



National Ready Mixed Concrete Association Robert G. Garbini, President & CEO





**National Utility Contractors Association** Bill Hillman, Chief Executive Officer



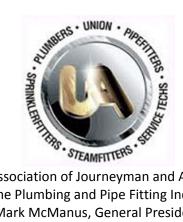
**Natural Gas Supply Association** Dena E. Wiggins, President & CEO



**Plastics Pipe Institute** Tony Radoszewski, President



Power & Communications Contractors Association Tim Wagner, Executive Vice President



United Association of Journeyman and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry Mark McManus, General President

## cc:

Honorable John Cornyn

Honorable Dick Durbin

Honorable Joe Manchin

**Honorable Patty Murray** 

Honorable Debbie Stabenow

Honorable John Barrasso

Honorable Roy Blunt

Honorable Cory Gardner

Honorable John Thune

Honorable Maria Cantwell

Honorable Lisa Murkowski

Members, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee