November 19, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell    The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader                 Democratic Leader
United States Senate            United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510            Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Democratic Leader Schumer:

The undersigned organizations represent a broad constituency of industries, companies, and labor unions who build and provide equipment, materials, supplies, services and human capital to energy infrastructure projects. Our broad group relies on that infrastructure to produce and deliver the energy that powers America.

We ask you to schedule floor votes as soon as possible to confirm new commissioners to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to fill current vacancies. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee recently cleared both a Republican and a Democratic nominee with bipartisan support, and their nominations now await a vote by the full Senate.

FERC plays a critical role in ensuring that Americans have access to reliable and affordable energy. The Commission reviews and permits certain new interstate infrastructure projects and expansions intended to modernize existing energy transportation systems. FERC also reviews and approves rates and services for interstate energy infrastructure companies. The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the importance of affordable and reliable energy, and energy infrastructure will play an essential role in supporting America’s economic recovery.

Moving energy safely, reliably, and efficiently to where it is needed requires an innovative and highly interconnected transportation system. Modernizing and expanding America’s energy infrastructure will bring investment and jobs to all corners of our country while also improving our environment. Energy infrastructure development delivers local opportunities—through wages paid to local workers, money spent at small businesses, and lower costs for families—and those benefits resonate across America.

Prospects for these opportunities become uncertain when seats on the Commission are left empty. FERC cannot approve new infrastructure, review rate or service proposals, or perform other key functions without a quorum. We ask that you support our efforts to create a modern, clean, reliable, and affordable energy system by filling the vacant seats on the Commission as quickly as possible.
Sincerely,

American Chemistry Council
American Council of Engineering Companies
American Forest & Paper Association
American Gas Association
American Iron and Steel Institute
American Petroleum Institute
American Pipeline Contractors Association
American Public Gas Association
Association of Oil Pipe Lines
Consumer Energy Alliance
Distribution Contractors Association
Edison Electric Institute
Electricity Consumers Resource Council

Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance
GPA Midstream Association
Independent Petroleum Association of America
Industrial Energy Consumers of America
Interstate Natural Gas Association of America
Laborers' International Union of North America
National Association of Manufacturers
National Utility Contractors Association
Plastics Pipe Institute
Portland Cement Association
Process Gas Consumers Group
U.S. Chamber of Commerce