
THE
NEW ENGLAND
COUNCIL

April 3, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Cheryl LaFleur Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Nomination

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of The New England Council (“NEC”), I am writing to express NEC’s strong support for the re-nomination of Acting Chairman Cheryl LaFleur to serve as a Commissioner on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (the “Commission” or “FERC”). NEC urges you to nominate her to a second term, as she has fully demonstrated the ability to both regulate our energy markets and oversee the development of the nation's energy infrastructure in a manner that supports the interests of NEC's members and all Americans.

The NEC is a non-partisan alliance of businesses, academic and health institutions, and public and private organizations throughout New England, and was formed to promote economic growth and a high quality of life in the New England region. This purpose includes supporting regulatory actions designed to ensure that all of our member companies receive the reliable and cost effective electric and natural gas service that is needed to maintain and expand economic growth and employment in the region.

Prior to joining the Commission in July of 2010, Acting Chairman LaFleur spent over twenty years in the electric and gas industry as a regulatory lawyer and executive at one of New England's largest utilities, National Grid and its predecessor New England Electric System, where she served in many roles, including ultimately as National Grid's CEO. Her experience in New England provided her with a front row seat to the formation of New England's wholesale energy market and the expansion of the region's bulk transmission system as well as the implementation of some of the Nation's most successful energy conservation efforts. Considering her experience on these issues, there are few individuals that are more qualified to serve the United States as a member of FERC.

Since her appointment in 2010, Acting Chairman LaFleur has focused on transmission planning, reliability and system security, all of which are critical to New England’s continued economic growth. Based on her

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past experience working directly for electricity and natural gas customers, she recognizes the hardship caused by inadequate or overly expensive energy supplies on working class families, businesses, and communities. She also understands the devastating effect that a major interruption in electric or natural gas service would have on our nation's citizens and economy, whether caused by severe weather, a cybersecurity incident, or a physical attack.

Her support for enhanced regional transmission planning and focus on system reliability and security are reflected in the Commission's work-product. Acting Chairman LaFleur has been an integral part of many of FERC's most important initiatives over the past three years, including addressing the country's need to continue to develop and invest in the bulk transmission system. In addition, she has been a leader on enhancing our system reliability through sensible reliability standards and new cybersecurity controls, and has focused on the critical need to ensure coordination between the natural gas and electric markets and their associated infrastructures. Equally important to NEC's members is her thoughtful and balanced approach to integrating renewable generation into the bulk energy infrastructure, and planning for the implementation of upcoming EPA air emission and GHG-related rules. Acting Chairman LaFleur and her staff have been very accessible to NEC members, and she has spent a considerable amount of time in New England listening to the concerns of the region's industrial and commercial customers.

Government and markets have long worked together to create a reliable energy generation and delivery system for New England. Businesses have invested in technologies and infrastructure that have increased the region's productivity and fostered economic growth. And the government has helped ensure that the benefits of these technologies are broadly available through policies supporting the reliable generation, transmission and sale of electricity at the lowest reasonable cost to its commercial, industrial, and residential consumers.

Acting Chairman LaFleur demonstrates an intuitive understanding of this principal, both in theory and practice. On behalf of the NEC, I urge you to nominate her to a second term as a member of the Commission.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If I can provide any additional information concerning Acting Chairman LaFleur and her qualifications for this position, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Mark C. Kalpin
NEC Energy & Environment Committee Chair

Cc: New England Congressional Delegation