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

July 12, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell          The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader                        Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate                            U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510                 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 Council of Engineering Companies
David A. Raymond, President & CEO

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

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

American Rental Association
Tony Conant, Chief Executive Officer

American Supply Association
Michael Adelizzi, Executive Vice President

Associated Equipment Distributors
Brian P. McGuire, President & CEO

Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Dennis Slater, President & CEO

Associated General Contractors of America
Stephen Sandherr, Chief Executive Officer

Distribution Contractors Association
Robert Darden, Executive Vice President
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