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October 19, 2017

Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Secretary Bose:

I am writing with great concern about the proposed Grid Resiliency Pricing Rule, which would prop up outdated energy resources like coal while increasing Americans' energy bills.

As you know, on September 28, Secretary Rick Perry of the Department of Energy (DOE) announced a proposed rule for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Secretary Perry claims this rule will increase the reliability of the U.S. electric grid and its resilience to disruptions such as severe weather storms and natural disasters.

The reality is that, if implemented, this rule would destroy competitive power markets and raise utility rates for millions of Americans, while doing virtually nothing to improve the reliability of the electricity grid. The administration singled out only one factor -- on-site fuel storage -- as deserving of extra compensation. However, on-site fuel storage would not have helped grid restoration efforts after storms like Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

DOE's own Staff Report concluded that coal plants were being shut down because they could not compete with natural gas, which shows how absurd this proposed rule is. Arbitrarily propping up a dying industry goes against what the GOP has long claimed is its goal--an all-of-the-above energy strategy. This rule clearly picks winners and losers in energy resources, which robs taxpayers of the benefits of competitive markets.

Furthermore, by giving FERC a lightning-fast deadline to act on the proposed rule, the administration is yet again trying to hide its intentions from the people who will be harmed by this rule: American families who are already walking on an economic tightrope. Instead, the administration is trying to swindle Americans by giving a handout to Big Coal and paying for it with Americans' hard-earned paychecks.

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Our country needs a reliable and resilient grid and Americans must have access to affordable electricity. Secretary Perry's proposed rule flies in the face of decades of progress in making energy cheaper and cleaner. I believe we can harness American innovation to deploy new energy technologies that are cheaper, cleaner, and more reliable. To that end, I insist that you withdraw this damaging proposed rule in its entirety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron Wyden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ron" and last name "Wyden" clearly distinguishable.

Ron Wyden
United States Senator