

January 30, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

On behalf of the American Gas Association (AGA) and its members, I am writing to urge the prompt nomination of candidates by the Trump Administration to fill the open commissioner positions at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Commissioner Bay's departure from FERC next week will pose a challenge for FERC, in the absence of a quorum, to continue much of its important work for the natural gas industry – including timely decisions on pending interstate natural gas pipeline infrastructure project construction and operation certificates. AGA is concerned that a lack of a quorum at FERC will cause delays, increase costs, and create uncertainty for many pending interstate pipeline projects and their customers.

AGA believes that the Trump Administration shares its concerns and will work quickly to fill the open FERC commissioner positions, particularly given that the administration's top priorities include the use of domestically-produced energy, and the promotion of infrastructure projects, such as natural gas pipelines. Having a FERC commission that is staffed to be in a position to continue to review and issue decisions on interstate natural gas pipeline certificate applications is an integral part of fulfilling these priorities. AGA is willing to work with your administration to identify qualified nominees, and stresses the importance of the consideration of nominees that have natural gas industry experience. AGA will also work to support the prompt confirmation of qualified nominees by the Senate.

AGA, founded in 1918, represents more than 200 local energy companies that deliver clean natural gas throughout the United States. There are more than 72 million residential, commercial and industrial natural gas customers in the U.S., of which 95 percent — just under 69 million customers — receive their gas from AGA members. Today, natural gas meets more than one-fourth of the United States' energy needs.

Sincerely,

