

**Written Testimony of Lindsay S. See
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Before the Subcommittee on Energy
House Energy and Commerce Committee
February 3, 2026**

Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Latta, Ranking Member Castor, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for inviting me and my fellow Commissioners at FERC to appear before you. While the five of us are here today, I also want to thank the hundreds of FERC staff who make the agency's work possible. They bring their talent, integrity, and commonsense to work every day, and their dedication furthers our country's energy resilience and success.

It's especially poignant being here on the heels of Winter Storm Fern. With deep respect for the hardship and loss so many experienced, I'm grateful that we saw the bulk power system largely hold throughout this historic event. Though information is still coming in, I'm encouraged to see good results from better winterization and prep work, and coordinating across the gas and electric industries. We have more to do in these areas, but the progress so far is real.

On a more personal note, over 1 million homes and businesses lost power during the storm's peak—I was in one of those homes. In a region that saw significant ice buildup, for hours we listened to the crashes as heavy limbs fell all around the house and throughout the neighborhood. I was deeply impressed by the restoration efforts as thousands of line workers worked extended shifts in dangerous weather and hazardous driving conditions to bring the region back online. Thank you to my local utilities AEP and Appalachian Power for your tireless work—and thank you to those in so many other States for the same commitment.

When the heat and the lights go out during extreme cold, you quickly focus on all the practical details to keep your loved ones safe. Yet while I was waiting on power restoration, fortunately in my case, only 24 hours, it wasn't lost on the energy regulator side of my brain that real-world concerns like these are why we strive so hard to get the policy right—ensuring reliable and affordable energy. That's

FERC's mission after all. Reliability: keeping the lights on means heat, comfort, medical care. More broadly, it means economic growth and a vital component for our communities and country to prosper. And our affordability mandate means centering the real people our efforts serve.

These principles take on new urgency as stressors like Winter Storm Fern come on top of existing challenges from unprecedented load growth, aging and insufficient infrastructure, and urgency to get and keep key generators online. I view growing electricity demand from AI, manufacturing, and other strategic sectors as a national opportunity—it's only a crisis if we don't rise to meet it. Solutions to meet today's urgent conditions must both address the acute issues in front of us and build out the power sector for the future. They require innovation and nimbleness combined with expertise-grounded rigor and legal strength. They must respect the States and be tailored to different regions' needs. And they must be price-disciplined and accountable to the customers we serve.

Speed to Power Enhances Reliability

For reliability, FERC must respond to the urgent demand for speed to power. Energy infrastructure needs to keep pace with America's rapidly growing power needs. That means building new and needed generation—supporting our state partners in their front-line work and taking seriously our role as market regulators in strengthening investment signals. It means more efficiency in building the pipes and wires that get our nation's abundant energy supplies to the people and businesses that rely on them. The Commission should continue working to approve more gas capacity, remove pipeline-development barriers, and further streamline the certificate process. And building out the electricity grid on time and in a reliability-forward way requires openness to new ways to get critical resources built and connected fast.

To that end, the Commission is focused on potential solutions like co-located arrangements and BYO generation, as well as new approaches to studying large loads and the generators that serve them.

When deployed well, these strategies can be both consumer-forward and help meet our national imperative of speed to power and winning the AI race. One of my guideposts when novel approaches come before us is encouraging as much flexibility as responsibly possible to harness these solutions' speed and value-adds. Relatedly, I'm focused on the conditions that allow technological advancement to flourish in this fast-moving time. America's energy sector has led the world in tech development because of free-market competition that rewards the most efficient solutions. When it comes to energy storage, demand response, grid automation, and more, FERC must continue its role in creating a stable foundation for private-sector innovation to shine.

Keep Electricity Affordable

On affordability, today I think especially of conversations this past week with people and business owners very grateful for power during a historic storm, but also nervous waiting on the utility bills to pay for it. Building the power systems our citizens and economy depend on is expensive. Equally true: we must move forward with laser focus on protecting the customers who rely on dependable power *and* foot the bill for it.

Some of that focus should be on grid-enhancing technologies that help us get the most out of existing systems and that can make our new investments smarter. I'm also committed to the Commission's duty to protect customers in our ratemaking cases and related areas. And we must give deliberate attention to the electricity markets in this moment. Data shows that, over time, well-functioning competitive markets have delivered billions of dollars in customer value each year through sharing resources across broader geographic areas, prioritizing lower-cost power, and enhancing grid stability. Yet at the same time, electricity markets were not designed for the scale and speed of today's large-load growth. FERC must continue grappling with how to allocate costs fairly as new loads come

onto the system. Here, too, we need innovative and legally strong solutions to address near-term challenges while ensuring our long-term frameworks are strong.

Regulatory Certainty Spurs Infrastructure Development

Lastly, my pre-FERC experience as an appellate litigator and state lawyer means I always ask how we can do all this in a way that promotes the legally durable signals that get steel in the ground. My priority is striking the right balance between more speed through streamlined agency processes and doing our best work so stakeholders can be confident our orders will stand up in court.

A couple tangible examples on the infrastructure side—last fall the Commission ended a policy that had tacked unnecessary, months-long delay between when we issue a certificate under the Natural Gas Act and when pipeline construction can start. I was proud to vote for that. We are also working to streamline our processes to advance liquefied natural gas infrastructure: Currently, almost all changes to an operating LNG terminal—even many routine adjustments—require a time-intensive, case-specific authorization under section 3 of the NGA. I’m optimistic that, after reviewing all public input, the Commission will create a program to speed reviews for certain LNG-related projects that honors our statutory mandates, strengthens America’s role as a global energy leader, and provides the regulatory certainty needed to deliver reliable, affordable energy at home and abroad.

This is an exciting and sobering time for the American energy sector. As a Commissioner, I respect our twin duties not to go beyond the authority Congress has entrusted to us and not to hesitate in exercising the power we do have in a time that demands decisive action. I look forward to discussing more of these issues with you all today and to working with you and your staff in the months ahead. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.