

Written Testimony of Laura V. Swett
Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Before the U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Energy
February 3, 2026

Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Latta, Ranking Member Castor, and members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for inviting us to testify about our critical energy mission on behalf of the American people. FERC works for all Americans and across all party lines--my colleagues and I come from very diverse perspectives, but we are unified in the mission Congress gave us to ensure reliable, affordable energy.

I am honored to appear before you for the first time as Chairman, leading a full, five-member bipartisan Commission. I'd like to take this opportunity to share with you the three main principles that drive me as a leader.

First, I am driven by gratitude to be an American and I am thankful every day for the benefits this country has provided my family. As I shared at my Senate confirmation hearing last fall, I grew up the daughter of a Vietnamese refugee who left everything behind for the promise of a better life, and of a civil servant who dedicated over forty years to the Department of War. I learned from my parents at a very young age to not take for granted anything that we have in the US—including reliable and affordable energy. American ingenuity, hard work, and the dedication of tens of thousands of Americans in our energy workforce make our light, warmth and innovation possible.

Second, I have been a FERC lawyer for 15 years, and this is my third tenure at FERC. This means that I personally know the importance of maintaining and growing our professional staff. Thanks to our partners in the Administration, we are hiring again. And I'll put in a plug on this very public platform to interested people—please apply and join our mission. I also want to emphasize that, having spent my career litigating FERC cases, everything I do is with legal durability top of mind. I want to reduce the years and millions of dollars spent litigating FERC decisions with an eye toward ensuring, as much as we can, regulatory certainty, cost reduction, and acceleration of infrastructure development.

Third, I want all Americans to prosper. Energy is the foundation of our civil society, national security and economic prosperity. FERC stands at a critical juncture in history, domestically and in the world. We're in a global energy arms race created by the rise of technology, its

tremendous load growth, and our push to onshore manufacturing and jobs. I want the United States to lead that race. This is the moment to cement America's energy leadership.

As Chairman, I am committed to guiding FERC through the monumental growth opportunity before us. We're already working to streamline FERC processes, cut down connection times, and ensure efficient, durable infrastructure development and maintenance. I've been Chairman for only a few months, but I'm proud of the strides this full commission has made. We're continuing to explore whether we can simplify and optimize permitting by expanding our successful natural gas blanket authorization program to hydroelectric and LNG facilities. And in December, we directed the nation's largest grid operator to establish transparent rules to serve AI- data centers and other large loads co-located with generation. These rules will safeguard reliability and protect consumers across the mid-Atlantic, impacting over 67 million Americans.

A big part of the prosperity I want for America is affordability, which is very personal to me. Growing up, I watched my parents struggle as bills piled up. That experience drives my commitment to ensure progress does not come at consumer expense, and I know that everyone at this table shares my commitment.

I look forward to your continued support and partnership as we meet these challenges together. Thank you, and I welcome your questions.