

December 14, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

As your Administration reviews the pool of well-qualified candidates to fill the pending vacancy on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), we ask you to nominate an individual who is familiar with the Northeast and its unique energy markets and needs.

The FERC is a vital federal agency charged with oversight of the wholesale electricity and natural gas markets and the transmission of such commodities across the Nation. Recent legislative initiatives in Congress, including proposals to create a cap-and-trade system for the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions; establish renewable energy and energy efficiency targets; and expand federal authority for interstate transmission siting, increase the importance of the FERC, which will have a critical role in these new initiatives.

The FERC is currently comprised of commissioners primarily from the Western and Midwestern regions of the United States. The FERC has no representation from the Northeast. Given the critical policy initiatives the Commission will undertake in the next few years, a Northeast representative is crucial. The Northeast hosts some of the largest population centers and the greatest energy load in the Nation. Therefore, the FERC's implementation of the policy initiatives being proposed and developed by Congress will have a significant impact on the region.

We thank you for your consideration of our request for the appointment of an individual from the Northeast for the next commissioner of the FERC, and look forward to a Commission that adequately represents the diverse regional energy markets that serve the Nation.

Sincerely,

/o.s./  
David A. Paterson  
Chair  
Governor of New York

/o.s./  
Donald L. Carcieri  
Vice-chair  
Governor of Rhode Island

/o.s./  
Deval L. Patrick  
Lead Governor for Energy  
Governor of Massachusetts