January 27, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I’m writing on behalf of the members of the Energy Equipment and Infrastructure Alliance, which represents energy infrastructure construction contractors and suppliers of energy equipment, materials and services. Our members and their workers build and supply the infrastructure, importantly including pipelines, necessary to produce and deliver American natural gas and oil to consumers.

With the resignation of Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner Norman Bay effective February 3, the Commission will lack the quorum necessary for approval of desperately needed new natural gas pipelines.

Several major natural gas pipeline projects are pending before the Commission and awaiting approvals before construction can commence. When construction begins, these projects will create tens of thousands of good construction jobs. Also at stake are many tens of thousands more jobs throughout the country producing and supplying needed equipment, materials and services. And without these pipelines in operation, still tens of thousands more jobs won’t be created, because the lack of natural gas transport capacity will keep hundreds of drill rigs in mothballs and their operators and suppliers out of work.

Unless vacancies are quickly filled, FERC’s inability to act on project approvals makes it likely that construction schedules for these projects will suffer lengthy delays. Not only are the workers sidelined when projects are delayed, but so is the enormous investment in capital equipment used in energy infrastructure construction. Many hundreds of millions of dollar of capital equipment, acquired and standing by for this pipeline work, will now sit stranded, resulting in substantial additional losses to their owners and investors, and to the many more jobs that would otherwise flow from those investments.

Accordingly we urge you immediately to nominate one or more candidates to fill FERC’s vacancies, and will stand by to work for their confirmation in the Senate.

Respectfully,

Toby Mack
President and CEO