

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 18, 2020

The Honorable Neil Chatterjee
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Chatterjee:

As we all try to make our way through these challenging times, we know that the Commission schedule remains highly uncertain and subject to change.

You recently received a petition from a broad set of stakeholders that spans the energy industry, requesting that you convene a technical conference or workshop to discuss frameworks for integrating carbon emission reduction policies into our wholesale energy markets. Specifically, the petition requests that FERC look at how carbon pricing can be integrated into our energy markets in a way that maintains reliable low-cost energy.

We believe this issue warrants more attention from the Commission, especially in light of recent actions and statements from several grid operators. For example, the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO), ISO New England, PJM Interconnection, and California Independent System Operator Corporation have all taken steps or made statements supporting the policy outlined in the petition. NYISO has taken the most concrete steps and is actively working on a proposal exploring how a carbon price could be integrated into their energy market. Initial NYISO reporting shows that such a policy could help the state reach its stated climate policy goals, while bringing in billions in economic benefits to the state.

The Commission has a rare opportunity to heed the call from a diverse set of energy stakeholders who want to develop long-term certainty in the energy market with policies that could deploy and incentivize reliable, low cost, and emissions free energy. Therefore, we request that the Commission grant the request in this petition.

Sincerely,



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator