

COLETTE HONORABLE  
SENATE ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES  
CONFIRMATION HEARING DEC. 4

Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Murkowski and members of the Committee, good morning. My name is Colette Honorable and I am honored to sit before you today as a nominee to serve as Commissioner on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I'm grateful to President Barack Obama for this opportunity to serve, and if confirmed I'm certain that it will be the highest honor in my lifetime.

I would also like to thank Chairman Landrieu for scheduling this hearing. I'm appreciative to both of my home state senators, Sens. Mark Pryor and John Boozman, who have shown such a wonderful bi-partisan leadership. And certainly you've heard that I had the honor of working for Sen. Mark Pryor, and therefore I learned up close what it means to truly serve others and to put Arkansas first.

I'm also grateful to Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe who has supported my career in public service and has been a wonderful mentor and friend.

I'm thankful to my incredible family; I've introduced those here today. I also want to acknowledge my mother Joyce Dodson who has been such an inspiration to me, my in-laws, William and Maggie Honorable, and I also thank my brothers and the rest of my family. I have a wonderful support team. My husband Rickey is here with me in spirit today, and he strongly encouraged me to pursue this incredible opportunity.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is an independent agency charged with ensuring just and reasonable wholesale rates by public utilities, and to ensure that such service is not unduly discriminatory or preferential. Among other duties, FERC is charged with overseeing the reliability of the bulk power system and regulates construction of new pipeline, LNG and hydropower projects nationwide.

I believe that I am well suited to serve on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at this time, and I do believe that public service is my calling. I began my legal career at Legal Services. I've also worked as a consumer protection attorney, in civil litigation, and as a Department of Medicaid Fraud special prosecutor before serving as then-Attorney General Mike Beebe's Chief of Staff.

As you've heard I've served in a cabinet-level workforce position, which taught me the importance of energy in the economic workforce development arena. I was appointed to the Arkansas Public Service Commission in October 2007 and since that time I have worked in a number of capacities there as commissioner, interim chairman, and now as Chairman, a position I've held since January 2011.

As Chairman of the PSC, I have overseen an agency charged with ensuring safe, reliable and affordable retail electric service. Our Commission has jurisdiction over approximately 450 utilities with annual jurisdictional revenues of approximately \$5 billion dollars. Therefore, I have participated in rate case proceedings, plant acquisitions, transmission build-out applications, regional transmission efforts and other transactions to ensure that Arkansas has a reliable grid and diverse generation mix. We're also proud that we use all sources and resources to ensure affordability and reliability for Arkansas consumers.

Therefore, we truly employ an all of the above approach. Arkansas leads the South and Southeast in comprehensive energy efficiency programs, and our electric rates are consistently among the lowest in the nation. Arkansas also has one of the most prolific shale plays, the Fayetteville Shale, of which we're proud, too. My Commission also ranks first in pipeline safety transparency nationwide.

As you've heard, I have served as President NARUC. I was elected by my peers to lead our Association on many issues, including pipeline safety, reliability and resilience efforts, and fuel and workforce

diversity. I've worked with government and industry on behalf of our 200-plus member commissioners and the consumers that they serve. I testified before Congress, including this Committee, on multiple occasions, and have advocated for infrastructure development to ensure safety and efficiency, increased reliability and resilience efforts, diversity of energy and of our energy workforce. My peers have described me as a fair, pragmatic, moderate, and a hardworking leader who is able to build consensus across party lines for common goals.

If confirmed to serve at FERC, I would continue to build upon the work which began so many years ago in my beloved Arkansas, a place that has taught me so much: To do good; to listen to the opinions of others even when we don't agree; to respect others and to serve the least of these. This is an exciting time to work in the energy sector, but it is also a challenging time. I believe that I am up for the challenge and, if confirmed, I would be committed to carrying out the duties and obligations of the position of Commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for the opportunity to appear here today and I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.