

Chairman Jon Wellinghoff

House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations
Hearing on Executive Order 13563, "Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review"

July 7, 2011

Thank you Chairman Stearns, Ranking Member DeGette and members of the subcommittee. I want to thank you all for having us here today, and my colleague Commissioner Moeller, to discuss our views on regulatory reform and independent agencies. We've submitted full testimony here that I'd like to have entered into the record, and I'll summarize my testimony.

The Commission continually seeks to streamline its regulations in order to foster competitive markets and facilitate enhanced competition to minimize consumer costs. In implementing the statutory authority provided by Congress, I'm committed to assisting consumers in obtaining reliable, efficient and sustainable energy services at a reasonable cost through appropriate regulatory and market means.

Fulfilling this mission involves pursuing two primary goals: ensuring that rates, terms and conditions are just and reasonable and not unduly discriminatory or preferential, and promoting the development of safe, reliable and efficient infrastructure that serves the public interest. The Commission has taken, and continues to take, a number of steps to make certain that its regulations meet the fundamental objectives set forth by Congress without imposing undue burdens on regulated entities or unnecessary costs on those entities or their customers.

For example, the Commission has taken several steps to remove barriers to entry of new businesses and technologies that facilitate competitive markets and can lower consumer costs. The Commission also seeks out ways to help entities, particularly small ones, navigate the federal regulatory process. The Commission has also recently reduced burdens on applicants, speeding up the processes of filings and improved public access to documents.

In sum, I support the goals of Executive Order 13563. I've directed the Commission staff to conduct a review of the Commission's regulations with the goals of the Executive Order in mind. This direction is consistent with the Commission's practice of engaging in constant self-review to avoid red tape or unnecessary regulation that would impose undue burdens on the energy industry and its consumers.

Thank you, and I look forward to answering any questions.