

Statement of Allison Clements
Nominee to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
September 16, 2020

Thank you Chairman Murkowski, Ranking Member Manchin, and members of the Committee. I am honored to appear this morning as a nominee to serve as on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

I will start with thanks to Minority Leader Schumer and his staff for recommending me for this nomination. Thank you also to President Trump for the nomination and this opportunity. And, thank you to Senator Manchin and his staff for supporting me throughout the nomination process thus far.

All things are different in light of the coronavirus pandemic, including our ability to share important moments with our families and friends. So, I thank my husband Ray, who is here, and our daughters Amelia and Claire, who are streaming this hearing from home today. Their support in this process makes it possible and worthwhile. I'd also like to recognize and thank my parents, Bob and Jean Clements, who are watching from Dayton, Ohio, and my siblings David, Andrea, and Janet, and their families. In addition to providing unwavering support, over their 56-year marriage my parents have demonstrated the value of hard work and dedication: My father by climbing the ranks at General Motors over his 30-year career there and my mother as a teacher, stay-at-home mom, and then master's degree graduate, which led to her tenured role as a Greene County Extension Agent for The Ohio State University. Finally, I'd like to thank my mother-in-law Peggy Henger, Ana and Jorge Vidal, and colleagues and good friends here in Washington, Salt Lake City, and beyond, who have supported my family and me on this journey.

Some people have asked me why in such divided and partisan times I would want to take on this role. Thinking of my daughters at home getting ready for virtual classes today, my response is easy: I firmly believe in public service as a high calling. I am honored by the opportunity to serve our great country.

I have tremendous respect for FERC and its role as an independent, bipartisan commission. I have developed this perspective across different roles throughout my career in the energy sector. Each of these experiences has shaped the approach I would take as a Commissioner if confirmed to FERC.

1. First, representing large utilities at a law firm opened my eyes to the magnitude of administrative compliance that regulated entities face across the maze that is the U.S. energy regulatory landscape. The role also provided my first encounter with a lesson affirmed repeatedly throughout my career: Precision and integrity are critical for success in the practice of law.

2. Second, as an attorney representing borrowers and lenders to infrastructure project financings, I became attuned to the powerful impact that one policy change can have on a deal worth hundreds of millions of dollars, and the related high bar for regulatory certainty that capital markets expect as a precursor to investment. I learned to appreciate the intention, and attention, that should support any regulatory change because the ripple effects can be far-reaching.
3. Third, I am better known for my work representing clean energy interests, a time during which I learned many things. This role deepened my expertise in electric grid operations by providing opportunities to serve as co-chair of a Bipartisan Policy Center committee focused on grid policy, as well as on a National Academies of Sciences Committee focused on grid resilience. There, I had the honor of working with some of the country's most eminent grid-focused engineers on how to ensure system resilience and reliability. This role also taught me to appreciate the boundaries of FERC's jurisdiction as a technology-neutral economic and reliability regulator. Finally, this work made clear that FERC regulation does not exist in a vacuum. Individuals and communities, and in the end all of us as consumers, are affected by FERC's decisions. While the issues are often technical and arcane, we must not forget that ultimately, the Commission exists to serve the public interest.

If I have the honor of being confirmed, I will also bring the professional values I have employed and honed across all of these experiences. These values include a commitment to keep an open mind and to learn from and work with FERC's impressive staff, my fellow commissioners, and sector stakeholders on the important issues facing the Commission today.

I thank you for this opportunity to appear before the Committee, and I look forward to answering your questions.