



Barry Russell
President and CEO

January 30, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) urges the White House to expeditiously submit nominees to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to fill open seats on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that will return the Commission to a quorum.

IPAA strongly supports the intent and the actions of the Trump Administration to “allow vital energy infrastructure projects...to move forward.” The Administration’s actions to move forward on the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines demonstrate its commitment to expand America’s energy infrastructure. Similarly, continued development of America’s natural gas resources is dependent on the consistent, independent work performed by the Commission. Without a quorum, the Commission will be hamstrung in approving vital interstate natural gas pipelines that have already completed environmental review. The absence of a quorum also injects uncertainty into financial markets that are a key component to development of needed infrastructure.

IPAA strongly supports the leadership of Chair Cheryl LaFleur and is confident that Chair LaFleur and Commissioner Collette Honorable, supported by Commission staff, will continue to work tirelessly to ensure well-functioning energy markets. However, the lack of a quorum takes away the ability to act on significant proceedings, such as new infrastructure projects under the Commission’s jurisdiction.

IPAA represents the thousands of companies that drill 95 percent of America’s onshore and offshore oil and natural gas wells. America’s independents produce 54 percent of American oil and produce 85 percent of American natural gas. IPAA members rely on a strong, safe network of pipelines to transport crude oil, natural gas, and associated products to consumers.

With the growth in American energy production—and its attendant benefits in creating new jobs, providing consumers with affordable energy, lowering manufacturing costs, and improving air quality—comes the need for infrastructure to move the commodity to markets. IPAA strongly support prompt White House efforts to send the names of nominees to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee so that Committee Chair Lisa Murkowski can follow through on her commitment to “make it a top priority to work with President Trump and [her] colleagues to move nominees rapidly and to re-establish a working quorum on the Commission.”

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Russell
President and CEO