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October 25, 2019

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

Re: FERC Docket AD19-18

Dear Chairman Chatterjee and Commissioners:

As the United States continues to face cybersecurity threats from both domestic and foreign actors, I write today regarding the FERC's consideration of a proposal to address Critical Infrastructure Protection Reliability Standards. I commend the FERC for examining this important issue and urge the Commission to take a thoughtful approach to increasing transparency and protecting the reliability and security of our electric grid.

Electricity generation is essential to interstate commerce and the daily functioning of America's economy. Whether you are a small business, a manufacturer or a family, access to electricity is critical to our everyday lives. However, numerous cybersecurity violations from some of our nation's largest utilities have called into question how effective the current regulatory framework is operating to ensure that our electric grid is secure and ratepayers are protected from potential blackouts. The complexity of our grid system and constantly changing landscape of cyber threats necessitates a thorough examination of these standards to ensure they are working as intended.

Cybersecurity violations that pose a serious and substantial risk to the integrity of America's bulk power system are deeply concerning. While FERC has issued fines to utilities that are found in noncompliance, ratepayers are left in the dark as to whether their utility is in compliance with cybersecurity standards. It would be prudent for FERC to judiciously examine how increased transparency of cybersecurity violations would improve compliance with cybersecurity standards and enhance both ratepayer and lawmakers understanding of current cybersecurity threats to our electric grid. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and should you have questions regarding this issue please contact my Legislative Director Travis Krogman at (202) 225-5206.

Sincerely,

Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress