

January 9, 2018

Delegate Terry Kilgore  
Pocahontas Building  
900 East Main Street, Room E201  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Senator Frank Wagner  
Pocahontas Building  
900 East Main Street, Room E504  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Delegate Kilgore and Senator Wagner:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations representing businesses in the clean energy industry, low-income ratepayers, and supporters of energy efficiency and clean energy, we are writing to you regarding the upcoming vacancy on the Virginia State Corporation Commission. Clean energy encompasses a broad range of products and services that constitute the best available technologies for meeting energy needs today and tomorrow, including but not limited to electric vehicles, energy storage, energy efficiency, demand response, smart grid, and renewable energy.

The members of the State Corporation Commission are incredibly important to ensuring that our energy system is secure, clean, and affordable. The opportunities created by clean energy technologies are enormous – from resilient grids that keep the lights on during a storm, to low-emitting or pollution-free power generators that keep our air clean, to energy efficient products that lower energy bills. Making the most of these opportunities requires an appreciation of the complex and rapidly evolving system of clean energy technologies and services.

It is therefore critical that Commission seats be filled with highly qualified candidates who meet the following set of criteria that our experience shows are key traits of successful commissioners.

**Background**

- Commissioners should come from a non-utility business background with additional consideration for experience in the energy sector, particularly on the policy side; or
- An energy policy expert outside of business who understands the code of Virginia and could hit the ground running.

**Relevant Utility Regulatory Knowledge**

- Commissioners should be quantitative in their approach and look to data and facts to solve problems;
- Understand the impact of clean energy on the utility business model and work to align the utility's business with the clean energy future;
- Recognize the importance of rate design and the ways in which rates encourage or discourage the adoption of new technologies;
- Understand the importance of widespread access to utility data to facilitate the transition to a more efficient electricity system; and

- Has a commitment to bringing the benefits of clean, reliable, and affordable energy to all ratepayers, particularly those in low-income households and disadvantaged communities.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with these recommendations regarding the upcoming appointment to the State Corporation Commission. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss these recommendations further.

Sincerely,

J.R. Tolbert  
Vice-President, State Policy  
Advanced Energy Economy

Lesley Fore  
Executive Director  
LEAP (Local Energy Alliance Program)

Kurt Pfund  
Principal  
Zerodraft Maryland, LLC

Dana Bartolomei  
Housing & Energy Efficiency Associate  
National Housing Trust

Abby Johnson  
President  
Abacus Property Solutions, LLC

Dawone Robinson  
Virginia Lead  
Energy Efficiency for All

Quincy Dodge  
Energy Efficiency Coordinator  
Virginia Housing Alliance

Chelsea Harnish  
Executive Director  
Virginia Energy Efficiency Council

cc: Senator Tommy Norment  
Senator Richard Saslaw  
Delegate Kirk Cox  
Delegate David Toscano  
Clark Mercer, Office of Gov-elect Northam