

Written Testimony of Judy W. Chang
Nominee to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
before the
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
United States Senate
March 21, 2024

Chairman Manchin, Ranking Member Barrasso, and distinguished members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I'm honored to be here today as a nominee to serve as a commissioner on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I would like to thank President Biden for nominating me, and I thank Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso for holding this hearing.

I'm grateful to appear today with my fellow nominees, Mr. Rosner and Ms. See, whom I've had the great pleasure to get to know a bit over the last few weeks and I hope we get the opportunity to work collaboratively together in the future. I also want to thank my dear husband, James MacNeil, and my daughter, Tara, who are here today in the committee hearing room. My other daughter, Sophia cannot miss her class today, so she is joining virtually.

My approach to energy issues is shaped by personal background. Due to my father's career with the foreign service of Taiwan, I spent my formative years in Taiwan and the Philippines before moving to California to finish high school and attend university. Having grown up in developing countries (Taiwan was a developing country back then), I have experienced firsthand power outages as a daily event. Candlelit dinners were not just for the romantics; they were a necessity. From a young age, my parents instilled in me the principle that no resource should ever be wasted, working hard to save every penny so that my brother and I could have the opportunity of obtaining a good education in the U.S. To this day, I am always turning the lights off behind my kids as they leave the room and urging them to wear a sweater through late fall in New England before finally turning on the heat.

I earned my undergraduate degree in electrical engineering and computer science from University of California, Davis. From early on, I wanted to work on improving infrastructure around the world, particularly having experienced what a lack of infrastructure means for peoples' daily lives. After obtaining my master's degree in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School, I started working in finance and economic consulting in the energy sector. Much of that work has been technical in nature, applying my background in electrical engineering and

economics to analyze issues within the energy sector, including wholesale electricity market design and infrastructure planning and development. In that capacity, I advised a broad spectrum of energy companies, including various investor-owned utilities, public power and cooperative utilities, and independent power producers. That experience allowed me to work on diverse energy issues across the United States, covering many western, midwestern, and southern states, and gave me an appreciation of the significant regional differences in how people produce and consume energy in this country.

In 2020, I had the distinct privilege of joining then-Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker's administration. Serving under Governor Baker was a great honor and I learned a tremendous amount working with my colleagues and stakeholders across the region. At the outset of my tenure, I led the six New England states in developing a consensus vision for long-term power system planning. That included working with the New England independent system operator to initiate a forward-looking, long-term transmission planning process to promote the reliability and resilience of the electricity grid at a cost customers can afford.

In that vein, and drawing on my personal background, my experience in the private sector, and my tenure in state government, I have a deep appreciation for the foundational importance of ensuring the reliability and affordability of energy system. Those twin imperatives are, for good reason, front and center in every utility executive and government leader's mind. And they are prerequisites for a robust economy and the continuation of the energy transition in which the country finds itself today.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is an *independent* regulatory agency that plays a crucial role in ensuring both reliability and affordability. Its broad jurisdiction includes the regulation of rates for the wholesale sale and transmission of electricity and the interstate transmission of natural gas as well as siting authority for critical energy infrastructure, such as interstate natural gas pipelines, liquified natural gas export facilities, and hydroelectric generation facilities. Should I have the privilege of being confirmed, I commit to keeping both reliability and affordability at the forefront of my mind as I rigorously—and independently—examine the particular facts and circumstances in every proceeding that comes before the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I welcome any questions you may have.