

Statement of
Colette D. Honorable
Nominee to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Before the
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
December 4, 2014

Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Murkowski, Members of the Committee,
good morning. My name is Colette Honorable and I am honored to sit before you
as a nominee to serve as a Commissioner on the Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission.

I am grateful to President Barack Obama for this opportunity to serve and, if
confirmed, it will be the highest honor in my lifetime. I would also like to thank
Chairman Landrieu for scheduling this hearing.

I am appreciative to both of my home state senators: Senator Mark Pryor and
Senator John Boozman and the bipartisan leadership they have displayed. I had

the honor of working for and with Senator Pryor and saw up close what it means to truly serve others, and to put Arkansas first.

I am also grateful to Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe who has supported my career in public service and has been a wonderful mentor and friend.

I am thankful to my incredible family. I am joined today by my daughter, Sydney Marie, my twin sister Coleen and my sister Pam. I want to also acknowledge my mother, Joyce Dodson, who has been such an inspiration for me, and my in laws, William and Maggie Honorable. I also thank my brothers who are such a support to me. My husband Rickey is here with me in spirit today, and he strongly encouraged me to pursue this wonderful opportunity.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is an independent agency charged with ensuring just and reasonable wholesale rates by public utilities, and to ensure that such service is not unduly discriminatory or preferential. Among other duties, FERC oversees reliability of the bulk power system and regulates construction of new pipeline, LNG and hydropower projects nationwide.

I believe I am well suited to serve on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Public service is my calling.

I began my legal career at Legal Services, and worked as a consumer protection attorney, in civil litigation, and as a Department of Medicaid Fraud special prosecutor before serving as then-Attorney General Mike Beebe's Chief of Staff. I served in a cabinet-level workforce position, which taught me the importance of energy in economic workforce development. I was appointed to the Arkansas Public Service Commission in October 2007 and I have served at all levels at the PSC—commissioner, interim chairman, and now as Chairman of the agency, a position I've held since January 2011.

As Chairman of the PSC, I have overseen an agency charged with ensuring safe, reliable and affordable retail electric service. The Commission has jurisdiction over approximately 450 utilities which have annual Arkansas jurisdictional revenues of approximately \$5 Billion dollars. I have participated in rate case proceedings, plant acquisitions, transmission buildout applications, regional transmission efforts and other transactions to ensure Arkansas has a reliable grid and diverse generation mix. We are proud that we use all sources and resources

to ensure affordability and reliability for Arkansas consumers. We truly employ an all of the above approach. Arkansas leads the South and Southeast in comprehensive energy efficiency programs and our electric rates are consistently among the lowest in the nation. Arkansas also has one of the most prolific shale plays, the Fayetteville Shale, and we're proud of that too. My Commission also ranks first in pipeline safety transparency nationwide.

I have served as President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. I was elected by my peers to lead our Association on many issues, including pipeline safety, reliability and resilience efforts, and fuel and workforce diversity. I worked with officials and executives at the highest levels of government and industry on behalf of our 200-plus member commissioners and the consumers they serve. I testified before Congress, including this Committee, on multiple occasions, and have advocated for infrastructure development to ensure safety and efficiency, increased reliability and resilience efforts, diversity of energy and of our energy workforce.

My peers have described me as a fair, pragmatic, moderate, hardworking leader who is able to build consensus across party lines for common goals.

If confirmed to serve at FERC, I would continue to build upon the work which I began several years ago in my beloved Arkansas, a place that has taught me so much: To do good; to listen to the opinions of others even when you don't agree; and, to respect others and to serve the least of these. This is an exciting time to work in the energy sector, but it is also a challenging time. I am up for this challenge. If confirmed I would be committed to carrying out the duties and obligations of the position of Commissioner at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for the opportunity to appear today and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.