

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20426

July 24, 2018

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable James E. Risch
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Risch:

Thank you for your May 11, 2018, letter, urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to take immediate steps to reform its Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) regulations. In this regard, you highlight the recently introduced S. 2776, the Updating Purchase Obligations to Deploy Affordable Resources to Energy Markets Under PURPA Act (UPDATE PURPA Act), as well as H.R. 4476, the PURPA Modernization Act of 2017. Your letter and this reply have been placed in the Commission's official record.

Updating PURPA and the Commission's PURPA regulations has been a topic of much discussion across the electric industry and before the Commission in recent years. It was the subject of a day-long technical conference at the Commission in Docket No. AD16-16-000 and the subject of extensive comments subsequently, and a topic raised in recent hearings before the House of Representatives' Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy.

PURPA is, I can assure you, a topic of interest to me and to my colleagues, as well. On May 17, 2018, at the Commission's public meeting, I announced that the Commission is initiating a review of its PURPA regulations. Recognizing that much has changed since the passage of PURPA in 1978, this review will examine what updates may need to be made to the Commission's PURPA regulations given these changes. Let me add that any revisions that the Commission may ultimately propose as a result of this review will be subject to a robust stakeholder process. I also caution, however, that many of the recommendations that have been suggested over the years are beyond the Commission's authority to address and would require formal Congressional consideration and action, as Congress deems appropriate.

If I can be of further assistance in this or any other Commission matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



F. Kevin J. McIntyre
Chairman

2018-00053

Document Content(s)

ATTACHMENT A

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