



December 12, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

**Re: Support for Willie L. Phillips to Chair the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

Dear President Biden:

We write to urge you to appoint Commissioner Willie L. Phillips, Jr. as the chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Commissioner Phillips is uniquely qualified to serve as chair and to advance your administration's goals to promote environmental justice, address climate change, and regulate the transmission of energy across our country. We strongly support his nomination.

Mr. Phillips, who has served as a FERC Commissioner for the past year, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on November 16, 2021 with bipartisan support. At the time, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Joe Manchin (D-WV) praised Phillips, saying he would bring "valuable experience and perspective to the Commission." Committee Ranking Member John Barrasso (R-WY) said, "Mr. Phillips will bring a wealth of expertise in safeguarding energy reliability and affordability to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission." We strongly agree.

Commissioner Phillips's distinguished experience enables him to serve as an effective Chair of FERC. Before becoming a commissioner at FERC, Phillips served as the chairman of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia (DCPSC). Prior to becoming chairman in 2018, he served as a commissioner on DCPSC for four years.

He also has decades of legal experience in the private sector. During that time, he served as the Assistant General Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and for two law firms, where he advised clients on regulatory compliance.

Commissioner Phillips has a proven track record of working with all stakeholders and he is a dedicated champion of underserved communities. During his time serving on FERC and DCPSC, he has worked to modernize energy delivery systems, with a focus on public engagement, equity, and environmental justice.

Appointing Commissioner Phillips to serve as chairman of FERC would be historic, as he would be the first Black American to serve in this important position. He is qualified, prepared, and has the support of the communities he would serve. We strongly encourage you to make Commissioner Phillips the next chairman of FERC.

Sincerely,



David G. Clunie  
Executive Director  
Black Economic Alliance



Spencer Overton  
President  
Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies