

Commissioner Richard Glick  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Subcommittee on Energy  
United States House of Representatives  
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Thank you Ranking Member Rush and Members of the Subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify this morning.

As a former minority General Counsel to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and I will say maybe I'm a snob according to Commissioner Chatterjee, but as a former counsel to the committee it is nice to be back on Capitol Hill. And it's good to see some familiar faces from the joint House and Senate energy bill conference that took place during the last conference.

I been a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for almost 5 months. During the short period of time the Commission has been called upon to consider number of challenging matters. Although FERC is not typically an agency that receives a substantial amount of public attention, the Commission's actions have a significant impact on the lives of everyday Americans. I witnessed this first hand while at the Department of Energy at the end of the Clinton administration. The Commission's inability to come together on a unified response during the height of the western energy crisis in 2000 caused consumers to pay significantly more for electricity and natural gas than they should have. It is imperative that the five of us work together to safeguard the public's interest.

As everyone here knows, we are in the midst of a dramatic transformation in the ways Americans produce and consume energy. This revolution has the potential to substantially improve our energy efficiency, reduce emissions, grow the economy and create millions of new jobs. FERC can help facilitate this transition by removing the barriers to participation and competition that exist in the wholesale markets. For instance, the Commission can examine market rules to ensure that they are not unduly discriminating against new technologies.

In February, FERC voted 5-0 to approve a final rule requiring RTOs and ISOs to facilitate energy storage participation in wholesale electric markets. Storage technology such as batteries and pumped hydro have the potential to play a leading role in the transition to the electricity system of the future. As the cost of energy storage continues to decline, these resources are poised to become a bigger part of the generation mix, leading to the development of a more robust grid that can, among other things, help to accommodate the ever-increasing demand for clean renewable resources from states, corporations and residential customers.

In addition, these storage resources will enhance the reliability and resilience of the grid, while also reducing electric rates. Today the cost of using lithium-ion battery technology is less than one quarter of what was at the start of the decade. Partly as a result of those declining costs, industry forecasts project that the nation's installed energy storage capacity will increase by 750% in just five years.

The Commission's action to reduce barriers to energy storage resource participation in wholesale markets will help to further this remarkable trajectory, all the while reducing consumer energy bills.

I believe FERC, pursuant to the Federal Power Act, should also identify and eliminate other barriers to the participation of new energy technologies in wholesale markets. For example, the Commission last week held a technical conference to examine the potential participation of aggregated distributed energy resources in wholesale markets, and the benefits these resources could provide.

Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Rush, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before the committee today. I look forward to answering your questions and the questions of your colleagues.