Written Testimony of Lindsay S. See
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Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich, Committee Members, thank you for inviting me and my fellow FERC Commissioners to appear before you today.

While the five of us are at this table, please let me also recognize the hundreds of FERC employees whose expertise, integrity, and dedication make the Commission's work possible. I'm honored to serve with public servants at their high caliber, and the nation is better for their work.

The energy landscape has changed dramatically since the last time I and two of my colleagues appeared before this Committee in 2024. Some issues persist, but many new ones have risen with striking urgency. All of them are defined by the overarching reality: America needs more power. Demand growth—from domestic manufacturing, artificial intelligence, data centers, and other strategic industries—is a great opportunity for our country. A growing load and a growing grid are signs of a growing economy, and American competitiveness depends on our ability to deliver reliable and affordable power.

For FERC in this dynamic time, we need decisive and flexible action within our legal authorities. We have to ensure our regulatory framework keeps pace with America's growing needs. That aim requires clear focus on three priorities: enabling speed to power, keeping electricity affordable, and delivering the kind of regulatory certainty that gets steel in the ground.

First, **reliability requires speed to power**. Ensuring reliable electricity isn't just about today's grid. It's about building tomorrow's infrastructure at the pace our growing energy needs require. We need regulatory processes that get new generation and large new loads connected to the grid quickly—and pipelines and transmission that get power where and when it's needed.

FERC has taken important steps to help meet those challenges. Last month, for instance, we issued a series of orders that require clear rules and structure for how organized electricity markets study and integrate large new loads. These actions are designed to improve transparency, coordination, and speed when it comes to large load interconnection. They also recognize that regional differences matter as part of a shared goal of connecting new demand safely and efficiently.

We're also reforming permitting processes to speed infrastructure reviews. We've taken a close look at what NEPA does and does not require, as well as cut out unneeded construction delays after our review is done. Modernizing permitting can uphold our statutory duties while improving predictability and helping get needed projects from planning stages to reality.

Second, **we have to keep electricity affordable**. Building the infrastructure to meet growing demand is expensive. But as we make investments across the electric system, we must keep consumers who ultimately pay for them at the center of our decisions.

One way to advance cost responsibility is to encourage alternative transmission technologies where they make engineering and economic sense. While not always the right fit, these technologies can get more out of the existing system, speed interconnection, and cut down on costly traditional network upgrades that would otherwise show up in customers' bills.

We also have to keep a close watch to ensure well-functioning competitive electricity markets. Over time, organized markets have delivered real value for consumers by sharing resources across broader areas, dispatching lowest-cost generation, and strengthening grid reliability. But today's markets were not designed for the pace and scale of modern large-load growth. So FERC is focused on reviewing the novel solutions we're seeing from various market regions, as well as keeping attention on the regions that have more work ahead.

In these areas and others, our controlling tenet should be that those who drive costs or benefit from new infrastructure should pay their way. By keeping that focus, building needed infrastructure and protecting customers can be complementary goals—not competing ones.

Third, **regulatory certainty drives infrastructure**. As a lawyer, I never forget that if FERC orders don't hold up in court, infrastructure doesn't get built. States, utilities, and developers need confidence in our regulatory processes. It comes from applying the statutes Congress enacted to the specific records before us. It also means not hesitating to improve when experience shows we can move faster, and in a transparent and legally responsible way.

That drive to improve animates our recent work on natural gas infrastructure. In May, we proposed expanding the blanket certificate program by increasing cost thresholds and adding new categories of routine projects for streamlined review. The goal is to modernize permitting to reflect today's infrastructure and cost-responsibility needs, while preserving resources for more complex reviews.

One of my priorities has been expanding that approach to liquefied natural gas infrastructure reviews. Today, most changes to operating LNG terminals require project-specific authorizations, even for routine proposals that present little environmental or other risk. I'm proud that we're now several months into a process to design a more efficient and predictable program for the LNG space that fully meets our legal responsibilities.

We're also focused on our hydropower-related reviews. Hydropower brings critical reliability features to the grid, and in some regions it's consumers' primary source of electricity. I support the Commission's continued efforts to find opportunities to improve post-licensing processes in this important area, too.

Today's energy landscape reveals extraordinary opportunities, but also generational challenges to meet them. In these areas and the others we will discuss today, I respect FERC's twin duties not to go beyond our statutory limits and not to hold back exercising the power we do have in a moment that demands decisive action. I also appreciate the strong partnerships FERC shares across the federal government, with the States, and in the private sector as we take on the priorities that define today's and tomorrow's energy needs. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. I look forward to your questions.