

International Brotherhood of
BOILERMAKERS • IRON SHIP BUILDERS

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February 21, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20050

Dear President Trump,

On behalf of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Ship Builders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers (Boilermakers), I write to urge action by your administration, through the Department of Energy (DOE), to use emergency powers to avoid the imminent closure of critical coal and nuclear power plants. Hundreds of coal-fueled generating plants have closed over the past several years due to lower natural gas prices and stringent EPA regulations. Some nuclear units are at risk because they cannot recover their costs under current electricity market rules, leaving some states struggling to ensure their economic viability.

Recently, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) rejected a proposed rule by DOE to provide full cost recovery for coal and nuclear units operating in competitive power markets. This rule would have helped to ensure fuel diversity and resilience of the electric power grid by correcting competitive electricity markets in the way that power producers are compensated. DOE's proposed rule recognized that baseload coal and nuclear plants provide unique benefits to the electric grid due to the security of their "on the ground" fuel supplies and their inherent stability and reliability.

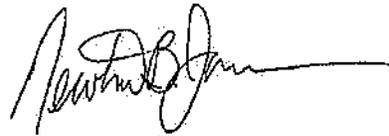
Unfortunately, the lack of action by FERC has now left too many of these coal and nuclear power plants vulnerable to imminent retirement. These plant closures will certainly result in further strain on the electric grid and reliability - not to mention the detrimental effects on the communities that these plants support through a strong tax base and steady employment, including thousands of highly-skilled Boilermakers who construct and maintain these coal and nuclear units.

Too many baseload power plants have already closed in recent years. The premature retirement of many more due to outdated market rules will further undermine electric reliability, affecting consumers, manufacturing industries, and high-tech businesses. Once these baseload power plants close, they do not reopen.

FERC's refusal to address this problem as proposed by DOE has left few alternatives and, in our view, requires immediate, corrective action by DOE.

I urge you to direct DOE Secretary Perry to use his emergency authority to intervene in this serious situation to prevent the further closure of coal and nuclear baseload generators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Newton B. Jones", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Newton B. Jones
International President

cc: Hon. Rick Perry, Secretary, Department of Energy
U.S. International Vice Presidents