INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, I urge your immediate action to secure our nation's baseload power plants and the long-term security and resilience of the electric grid. The Teamsters represent individuals employed in virtually every occupation imaginable, both professional and non-professional, private sector and public sector. Baseload coal and nuclear power plants directly employ more than 154,000 workers, produce major infrastructure projects that put Americans to work, and support a resilient and dependable electric grid.

Baseload power plants have long been the dependable work horses of the electric system, providing energy and ancillary services to customers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. With significant on-site fuel reserves, they provide the resilience required to keep electricity flowing under all adverse circumstances. Unlike other energy resources, their operation is not subject to interruption by factors such as extreme weather events or attacks on infrastructure. Our national security, and the economic base of communities across the nation, is dependent on maintaining these plants to support a resilient supply of affordable electricity.

However, numerous baseload power plants have permanently shut down in recent years, and many more are expected to close prematurely in the very near future. Once they are gone, they are gone for good. Baseload generation is under serious threat from market-distorting subsidies and mandates, regulations that target these resources and markets that don't value resilience.

We are at a crisis point. Further decline in the number of plants will not only impact the grid and national security, it will cost valuable jobs and discourage industrial development opportunities nationwide. This is an outcome the Teamsters and America simply can't afford.

Unless corrective actions are taken, including new mechanisms that recognize baseload attributes and ensure appropriate compensation for providing the resilience and dependability benefits, the long-term viability of these baseload plants along with the jobs and community economic benefits they bring is in peril. I urge you to direct Secretary Perry to use his emergency authority to save our nation's valuable baseload power plants.

Sincerely,

James P. Hoffa
General President
International Brotherhood of Teamsters