

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable James E. Risch
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Risch:

Thank you for your December 6, 2019, letter describing the threat to our nation's energy infrastructure posed by Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd (Huawei). Let me assure you that I appreciate and share your concerns about the need to protect our nation's electric grid from foreign intrusion.

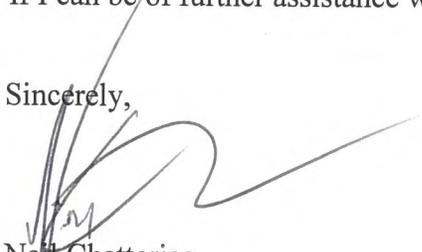
Protecting the electric system from cyber threats has been one of my top priorities as Chairman. To combat cyber threats, the Commission employs both mandatory and voluntary programs, consistent with FERC's statutory authority. First, the Commission oversees the development and enforcement of mandatory reliability standards through our Office of Electric Reliability (OER). Second, the Commission uses a voluntary approach to promote best practices and information sharing through our Office of Energy Infrastructure Security (OEIS).

Given the importance of cybersecurity to the Commission's mission, as you recognized in your letter, I recently established a new cybersecurity division within OER. One of the top priorities for this new division will be to continue addressing supply chain security issues through Commission-approved reliability standards, which would include the potential threats posed by equipment from Huawei

More broadly, the Commission will continue to work with our partners in government and the private sector to curb the threat posed by malicious foreign actors. In particular, my colleagues and I at the Commission will continue to work with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and our federal partners including the Department of Energy and the Department of Homeland Security to assess the threat posed by Huawei and take additional action as appropriate. In addition, I have directed Commission staff in OEIS and other offices to redouble their efforts to facilitate access to classified intelligence for state regulators given the increasing threats to our nation's energy supply chain and the important role these officials play in providing secure energy infrastructure for their respective states.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. If I can be of further assistance with this or any other Commission matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Neil Chatterjee
Chairman