



National Association of State Energy Officials

March 24, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Mike Lee
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
363 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Martin Heinrich
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Nomination of Catherine Jereza for Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity, U.S. Department of Energy

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Lee, Ranking Member Heinrich:

The National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), which represents the governor-designated State Energy Directors and their offices from the 56 states, territories, and the District of Columbia, strongly supports the confirmation of Catherine Jereza as Assistant Secretary of the Office of Electricity at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Ms. Jereza is a nationally-recognized expert in electricity policy and planning with an exceptional understanding of electricity markets, generating fuel interdependencies, cybersecurity, and the jurisdictional roles of federal, state, and private-sector electricity stakeholders.

Few energy issues are of greater concern to the State Energy Offices than the reliability, affordability, and sustainability of the electric system. In every region of the nation, State Energy Offices are engaged in transmission and distribution planning; supporting technology demonstrations; and partnering with their investor- and consumer-owned utilities to develop new generation, modernize transmission and distribution systems, and address the urgent need for more domestic manufacturing of critical electric system components. The State Energy Offices' unique jurisdictional role enables them to work closely with DOE, North American Electric Reliability Corporation, utilities, fuel suppliers, regional transmission organizations, technology firms, research institutions, vendors, major electric users, and consumer organizations to accelerate electric generation and grid modernization. Moreover, most State Energy Offices lead energy emergency planning and response for their governors and rely on the partnership with natural gas and electric utilities and fuel providers, DOE's Office of Electricity, and DOE's Office Cybersecurity, Energy

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Security, and Emergency Response to fulfill that mission. For these reasons, ensuring that DOE's Office of Electricity has a highly qualified leader such as Ms. Jereza, is a top priority for the states and NASEO.

We have full confidence that Ms. Jereza will uphold the crucial function that DOE's Office of Electricity plays on bridging federal, state, and private sector electricity stakeholders, as well as prioritizing input from the State Energy Offices in DOE's work. Building a more affordable electric system that meets both state and federal goals is critically important to America's economic growth and security. Ms. Jereza's knowledge of the electric industry, her engineering credentials, and expertise in federal and state policy and regulatory issues, makes her uniquely suited to lead DOE's foundational electricity activities and strengthen DOE's partnership with the State Energy Offices and energy providers. NASEO encourages the Committee to move quickly on her confirmation to ensure that the states have a strong partner in the Office of Electricity.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Terry', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Terry, President, NASEO