

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 5, 2025

The Honorable Summer Strand
Chair, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
4822 Madison Yards Way, P.O. Box 7854
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Chair Strand,

In the first months of the Trump administration, the White House has focused on unleashing American energy and improving grid reliability by rolling back Biden era regulations that largely serve to destabilize baseload power. This shift in focus presents an opportunity for Wisconsin and other states to undertake their own efforts to prioritize ample and affordable energy rather than continuing down the dangerous path of taking reliable power plants offline.

Nationally, we are moving in the right direction. The EPA has reconsidered several short-sighted regulations on power plants – particularly coal-fired power plants – and now is the right time for Wisconsin’s regulatory body to follow suit. Doing so will help ensure energy is widely available at more affordable prices. This will not only benefit local ratepayers, but it will also help make our state more competitive regionally, nationally, and globally. If Wisconsin is going to maintain its role as a world-class manufacturing state, we must keep all of our current power plants online and bring new generation online for the future. This is particularly critical as we enter a new era of artificial intelligence and data centers, which require a steady supply of reliable, and low-cost energy, such as coal, natural gas, and nuclear power generation.

As you evaluate the future of Wisconsin’s grid, I urge you to resist pressure to close any coal-fired plants prematurely. As you know, shuttering these facilities presents risks – which helps explain why we’ve already seen planned closures of existing coal plants delayed, such as Columbia Energy Center. In short, coal fired plants are a backbone of baseload power and cannot simply be replaced with intermittent generation provided by wind and solar.

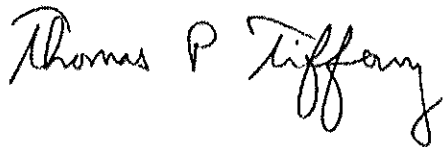
At the same time, it is also important to resist broad fuel switching mandates that could potentially put all of our baseload eggs in one basket by relying too heavily on a single form of energy. Take liquified natural gas for example. While natural gas is a reliable feedstock, it should not be the only one we rely on. If we close and convert our remaining coal plants to LNG, even short-term nominal market disruptions, supply crunches, or price spikes could lead to harmful consequences for power users. Diversification is key.

Moreover, it is important to remember that many of the special interest groups most opposed to coal-fired power generation in the past have now mobilized in opposition to natural gas. While this has undoubtedly been an effective “divide and conquer” political strategy, its logical consequences will be catastrophic for our state. If these anti-human groups prevail, we will inevitably be left with a grid powered by unreliable wind and solar energy – which is a recipe for endless taxpayer subsidies, higher electricity bills, rolling blackouts, and a stagnant economy.

As the Trump administration removes barriers to growth and opportunity, the choice is ours. Will our state keep up with the growing demand for energy, or will we play second fiddle to other states? Will we move to shore up our state's industrial prowess and prepare for the family-wage jobs of the future by tapping into Made in America energy, or will we allow the radical "climate" lobby to make Wisconsin poorer while enriching the "green energy" crony capitalists who finance them? We must make sure we are in a position to win and continue to grow, otherwise we run the risk of becoming California; or even worse, Spain or Portugal.

The choice should be clear. Our state's families, farmers, factories, healthcare providers, and entrepreneurs need dependable, reliable, low-cost electricity – not market distorting subsidies and Madison mandates that prioritize the politically connected over prosperity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas P. Tiffany". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "T" at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline.

Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress