



October 22, 2009

Ms. Suedeem Kelly
Commissioner
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
888 First St. NE
Washington DC 20426

Dear Suedeem Kelly:

The Climate Change Leadership Institute is a New Mexico based non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of a sustainable society based on clean energy, conservation and innovation. Every year we give out a *Climate Courage Award* to a person either nationally or locally who bravely and/or effectively works to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lead our nation in the responsible direction of climate stewardship.

This year we are proud to announce you, Suedeem G. Kelly, as the 2009 Climate Courage Award Winner because of your distinguished service and because of the character of your leadership as Commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). We believe that for our Nation to move most meaningfully towards a pollution free, clean energy and conservation oriented economy (which is necessary to address climate change and live up to the nation's creed of being responsible to future generations) will require major advances in the uses, sources and delivery of energy. As a FERC Commissioner serving two terms in the beginning of the 21st century you have demonstrated leadership which has helped set in motion this most important transformation. You have been an acknowledged leader heading the collaborative on the nation's so-called *smart grid* and you have been a wise advocate for widely and intelligently integrating renewables into our system of utilities and transmission. Your keen understanding of needing to execute these vital integrations in ways that reinforce and foster other critical objectives (including security, reliability and economic competitiveness) has helped provide institutional viability paving the way for the clean energy revolution to be successful.

Given CCLI's tendency to rotate between awarding a leader in New Mexico and a leader nationwide, it gives us a nice sense of satisfaction that we can integrate both national and New Mexico based leadership in awarding the prize to you. We understand and appreciate that besides your service with FERC and your work with the National Resources Defense Counsel at one time, you were also a professor of law at the University of New Mexico, you served as a legislative aide to US Senator Jeff Bingaman, now representing New Mexico as the chairman of the very important Senate Energy Committee and you furthermore served as Chair of New Mexico's Public Service Commission, which regulated our state's gas, electric and water utilities.

Going forward, as you prepare to leave FERC and move on to other endeavors, we hope very much that you take all of your experiences and skills and continue to apply them in ways that will advance our Nation to a stature of new energy excellence, sustainability leadership and climate stewardship.

With the Climate Courage Award come a plaque, a website feature and a financial prize of \$500 (we hope to make this more as years go on and bravery on this matter becomes even more necessary). Please due us the courtesy of writing back a letter letting us know that you received this award, what it means to you, any other thoughts you have to offer and if you happen to be donating the financial prize please let us know what organization you are supporting and why – so we can feature your official written response below this letter on our website www.takeresponsibility.us.

Congratulations again and thank you for your on-going leadership!

Sincerely yours,

Robb Hirsch

Founder and Director of the Climate Change Leadership Institute (CCLI)
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