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KATHERINE COLLIER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CONTACT: RACHAEL RING
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
(601) 540-6611
rachael.ring@psc.ms.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Mississippi Public Service Commissioner Chris Brown Leads the National Opposition of FERC RULE 1920

Jackson, MS (October 3, 2024)— Chris Brown, Northern District Commissioner and Chairman of the Mississippi Public Service Commission, is leading the charge against the Biden administration's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Order No. 1920. As a staunch advocate for Mississippi ratepayers, Commissioner Brown firmly believes that this rule undermines the economic stability of our energy infrastructure and places unnecessary burdens on consumers.

“Order No. 1920 represents a troubling trend of legislation by regulation, circumventing the legislative process to impose sweeping policy changes that Congress has not endorsed,” said Commissioner Brown. “The complexities and uncertainties surrounding this rule raise serious concerns about its cost-effectiveness and its potential impact on our grid's reliability.”

FERC has consistently failed to address its contribution to rising electricity costs and decreasing reliability. The agency's latest rulemaking, according to Commissioner Mark Christie, the sole Republican on the Commission, is a “pretext to enact, through administrative action, a sweeping legislative and policy agenda that Congress never passed.”

Commissioner Christie emphasizes that the final rule seeks to enforce a convoluted set of mandates that will burden every transmission provider in the nation, diverting trillions of dollars from consumers to serve the interests of political and corporate entities. He further cautions that the rule is likely to force consumers in some states to subsidize transmission facilities that do not directly benefit them, serving the agendas of other states or large energy buyers.

Commissioner Brown stands firmly with Commissioner Christie in opposing this “shell game” of regulations, which prioritizes “green energy” projects over the immediate needs and financial interests of Mississippi consumers. “Our ratepayers deserve transparency and accountability in energy policy, and we will not stand by while bureaucratic overreach threatens their economic well-being,” he stated.

The Mississippi Public Service Commission will continue to advocate for policies that prioritize the needs of our consumers and ensure that energy remains affordable and reliable. Commissioner Brown urges fellow commissioners and lawmakers to join in this fight against excessive regulation that threatens the fabric of our energy system.

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