



Testimony of Mr. Noel Black
Senior Vice President of Government Affairs
Southern Company Services

To: The United States House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Energy

“Scaling For Growth: Meeting the Demand for Reliable, Affordable Electricity”

Southern Company is a leading energy provider serving 9 million customers through its family of companies. The company has electric operating companies in three states, natural gas distribution companies in four states, a competitive generation company, a leading distributed energy infrastructure company with national capabilities, a fiber optics network, and telecommunications services.

Our system has over 44,000 MW of generating capacity, capabilities in all 50 states, and approximately 28,000 employees who work every day to keep the lights on and the gas flowing. Our retail electric operating companies are vertically integrated and state regulated utilities, whose customers benefit from a diverse portfolio of generation resources, including nuclear and natural gas resources, that provide reliable and affordable electric service.

Electricity is the lifeblood of modern society. It is not just another commodity--it is an essential service, woven into every aspect of our lives. It powers homes and hospitals, drives economic growth, and ensures the well-being of communities. The interconnected grid is irreplaceable in delivering electric service to consumers, and providing resilience, affordability, and reliability at a scale no other system can match.

Electricity is a necessity and access to reliable electricity is a fundamental expectation--whether for small businesses, large industries, or families in every income bracket. When electricity is unstable or unaffordable, the real-world impacts are immediate and severe. Our responsibility is to ensure the grid delivers dependable, cost-effective energy, no matter the circumstances.

At Southern Company, our employees take this responsibility seriously. Every day, we work to serve the nine million customers who rely on us. Our diverse and interconnected fleet--

spanning nuclear, natural gas, coal, and renewables--demonstrates how a balanced approach provides the foundation for energy security. This system, which is a modern engineering marvel, helps ensure we can meet today's needs while also preparing for the future.

Southern Company's commitment to innovation and resilience is evident. With the recent addition of new nuclear units at Plant Vogtle, we now operate the largest nuclear generating station in the country. As demand grows--driven by data centers and artificial intelligence, manufacturing reshoring, and a changing economy—Southern Company is prepared to provide the reliable power these industries require.

Looking ahead, our nation must prioritize energy abundance. A robust, well-planned energy system supports economic stability, drives growth, and protects consumers from volatility. Under the watchful eyes of our regulators, if we strive to make the right investments today, we can keep electricity prices stable, support economic expansion, and help mitigate inflationary pressures.

However, to sustain this momentum, we must invest in infrastructure that supports this rapid growth. The reality is clear: infrastructure, including natural gas infrastructure, is required now to meet rising demand in an affordable and reliable way. Pipelines, transmission systems, and generation capacity must keep pace with an expanding economy and evolving energy needs.

Importantly, electricity and energy are highly regional in nature. The weather, resources, state and local political environments, geography, and load profiles greatly impact the physics and finance of making, moving and serving electricity. Energy policy is therefore highly regional in nature, and this regionalism must be considered when developing federal policies.

We have all heard that “one-size fits all” policies are often not appropriate in energy policy, and that is because of the intense regionalism that drives energy outcomes. At Southern Company, we operate within a state regulated, vertically integrated market structure that holds us accountable for delivering affordable, reliable power to all customers that we are privileged to serve. Southern Company takes our responsibility to provide reliable and affordable energy to our customers seriously. We conduct extensive integrated resource planning to ensure that we have sufficient resources to meet the energy needs of our customers and that we thoughtfully integrate new, larger customers in a way that benefits all other customers.

Southern Company is proud to deliver reliable and affordable energy that supports our nation and helps the American economy thrive. We do everything in our power to make sure

that the lights are on and the gas is flowing, but our mission goes beyond providing reliable, affordable energy. We are a key part of the communities we serve: our support spans from Little League baseball teams to the local Chambers of Commerce, and everything in between.

Southern Company is committed to our communities for the long-term. We are supporting economic growth in our states by providing the reliable and affordable energy that helps them continue to thrive, because we recognize that we are an irreplaceable part of our states' remaining open for business. This is happening against a backdrop when many parts of the country are shutting their doors to growth for a variety of reasons, including that they simply cannot meet energy needs.

Southern Company appreciates the opportunity to participate in this discussion. We look forward to discussing how we can work together to ensure America continues to benefit from an abundant, reliable, and affordable energy future.