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February 5, 2016

Mr. Jim Leblanc
Louisiana Grid Coalition
323 Country Club Blvd
Slidell, LA 70461

Dear Mr. Leblanc,

I am pleased to learn about the formation of a Louisiana Grid Coalition that includes both InfraGard members and non-InfraGard members who are experts in national security, critical infrastructure, and disaster planning. It is my understanding that you intend to highlight the current vulnerabilities and serious potential problems with the resiliency of the Louisiana electric grid to both manmade and natural threats.

The coalition's concern and review of the grid's vulnerability to four main types of threats: 1. Physical Attack, 2. Cyber Attack, 3. Electromagnetic Attack, and 4. Naturally occurring Geomagnetic Disturbances (GMD) comes at a critical time. I am aware that you are also focusing on the potential environmental consequences to our state from the effects of long term grid outages on nuclear power plants located along the Mississippi River. It has also been brought to my attention that you are highlighting the lack of transparency of the current federal regulatory framework as it relates to the creation of standards of protection from these four threats. Accordingly, I appreciate you bringing to my attention the detailed letter to the Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) from my colleagues in the Senate – Edward Markey and Cory Booker – detailing this lack of transparency.

I share your concerns regarding the threat of an attack on the North American Electric Grid, especially given the potential threats by both Iran and North Korea and their well-documented nuclear weapons programs. I have been working to raise awareness of this issue and I am glad to know that there now exists a coalition of activists doing the same for the state of Louisiana.

I commend you and the Louisiana Grid Coalition members for your efforts to improve the safety of our nation and the state of Louisiana and I wish you the best in your ongoing work. Please let me know if I can be of assistance in your endeavors.

Sincerely,



David Vitter
United States Senate

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