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March 2, 2021

The Honorable Henry D. McMaster  
State House  
1100 Gervais Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor McMaster:

Thank you for your letter dated February 19, 2021. We at the ORS share your concern over the hardships endured by residents of Texas and other states severely impacted by recent winter storms. We also share your view that time is of the essence in making sure South Carolina is as prepared as possible to withstand similar weather events.

Following your request that the ORS undertake a comprehensive review of South Carolina's public and private power grid in terms of its ability to withstand impacts of severe weather events, the ORS filed a motion on February 22, 2021, with the Public Service Commission (PSC) to open a docket seeking comments from regulated and non-regulated electric and natural gas utilities on actions they have taken, and plan to take, to ensure grid resiliency. The ORS has already contacted stakeholders about this issue and, if the PSC grants the motion, the ORS requested that comments be filed within 90 days of the motion being granted. In addition, the ORS filed a letter with the PSC on February 25, 2021, emphasizing the urgency of this situation.

It is our intention to begin work immediately and to retain an outside expert to assist us with this review. We anticipate having a draft report of findings and recommendations in September and a final report completed before year end.

Your leadership and foresight in protecting the well-being of our citizens has been, and will continue to be, of utmost importance. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Nanette S. Edwards  
Executive Director