Dear Secretary Perry,

The Women’s Mining Coalition (WMC) strongly supports the Department of Energy’s study examining electricity markets, the value of baseload power and the long-term resiliency of a well-functioning electrical grid. This study is a historic step in upholding our national security by ensuring a resilient electrical system that supports a strong and growing American economy, and WMC supports your commitment to act.

Baseload coal and nuclear plants have long been the necessary backbone of our country’s electrical system. These plants operate around the clock to support the energy demands of customers, businesses and industries. Because they store significant fuel on site, baseload plants provide vital resiliency to the grid unmatched by any other generation resource. They can withstand extreme circumstances such as severe weather, attacks on infrastructure or other catastrophic events that disrupt fuel delivery to other generating resources while continuing to deliver electricity.

Yet, valuable baseload generating units have been retiring prematurely at an alarming rate due to targeted regulations, subsidies, mandates and other market distortions, extremely low natural gas prices, and market designs that only value cost but not attributes such as resiliency. America has reached a crisis point and stands to lose significantly if this trend continues. The members of WMC and all of the people in the USA rely on reliable, affordable power provided by an “all of the above” energy policy.

WMC is encouraged by the efforts underway at the Department of Energy; valuing the role of baseload generation must begin today. While others have only identified the problem, WMC is hopeful that you will be the one to finally take action and resolve it.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Coppola
WMC President