

**FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION CONFERENCE ON “ENERGY MARKETS IN THE
21ST CENTURY: COMPETITION POLICY IN PERSPECTIVE”**

**WELCOMING REMARKS OF JOHN H. SEESEL, ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL
FOR ENERGY, FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION**

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Good morning, and welcome to the Federal Trade Commission’s conference on “Energy Markets in the 21st Century: Competition Policy in Perspective.” I am John Seesel, the FTC’s Associate General Counsel for Energy, and I want to extend a warm welcome not just to those in attendance today, but also to all of you watching this conference on our webcast. And I especially want to say how honored we are to have Secretary of Energy Bodman with us this morning. We look forward very much to your keynote address, Mr. Secretary.

I will be uncharacteristically brief, as we have a very full program over the next three days, with many fascinating speakers prepared to discuss a range of topics of critical importance to competition policy and consumers in the energy sector. Whether your main interest is the price of gasoline for your car, the price of electricity for your home or business, the many interesting directions that energy research and development may take, or the security of energy supplies for the United States and the world – just to name some of the topics we will cover – we expect that the next three days will generate an absorbing and thought-provoking dialogue and may yield some valuable insights into where the country should go in a number of key areas.

Before I turn the microphone over to Chairman Majoras, I just want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the stellar group of moderators and speakers who have contributed their time, talents, and expertise so generously to this conference. I also want to thank all of my FTC colleagues who worked so hard to get ready for this week: despite your very busy schedules, you all gave unstintingly of your time to organize the Energy Conference and to work with our

moderators and panelists.

It is now my privilege to introduce Federal Trade Commission Chairman Deborah Platt Majoras, whose inspiration was the spark for this conference. With her strong interest in energy policy issues and her dedication to continuing the FTC's historic function of exploring issues of significance to competition and consumers, the Chairman recognized that the Commission could use a conference such as this to allow a broad range of groups and individuals with a stake in U.S. energy policy to share information in one open forum. As she stated when the FTC announced this conference, "Few issues are more important to American consumers and businesses than the decisions being made about current and future energy production and use . . . This conference will provide a forum for informed discussions and data sharing that will assist in fact-based decision-making." I expect that we will hear many such discussions between now and Thursday.

Chairman Majoras . . .