

January 4, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
President-elect of the United States

Dear Mr. President-elect,

Congratulations on your election as the next President of the United States. As you, Vice President-elect Harris and the Biden-Harris Administration prepare for the opportunities and challenges ahead—including the coronavirus pandemic, economic recovery, climate change, cybersecurity and racial equity—please consider Southern Company, our subsidiaries and our 28,000 employees as a partner and resource.

Southern Company is a leading energy company serving 9 million customers with clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy through electric operating companies in three states, natural gas distribution companies in four states, a competitive generation company serving wholesale customers across America, a leading distributed energy infrastructure company, a fiber optics network and telecommunications services.

Despite the pandemic, we never stopped working to address the health and safety needs of our customers, communities and employees. We recognize the extraordinary burden many are facing, and we continue to provide support through special payment arrangements, substantial charitable contributions and sustained advocacy for important governmental assistance programs, including the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Southern Company also is committed to a leadership role in finding solutions to climate change. Working closely with our customers and regulators, we were one of the first U.S. utilities to set a bold, industry-leading goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2050. Current projections indicate we could achieve a 50% reduction as early as 2025—five years earlier than our original goal.

We expect our path to net zero to be comprised of several key elements, including continued coal transition enabled by the utilization of natural gas, renewables and energy storage. Since 2007, we have significantly transformed our generation mix, with coal decreasing from 69% to 22%. We have retired or converted to natural gas 73% of our coal units while retaining all employees operating these units who desired to stay.

Given its domestic abundance, affordability and relative carbon footprint, we believe natural gas will continue to play a foundational role in securing America's energy future. As a result, we are focused on opportunities to lead the industry in the use of renewable natural gas, while reducing emissions across our entire supply chain and customer base. As just one example, under Southern Company's management, the National Carbon Capture Center has expanded its testing efforts to include a greater focus on carbon capture technologies for natural gas power plants.

Our transition to net zero also will include the expansion of our fleet of zero-carbon resources, including nuclear, solar, wind, storage and hydroelectric facilities. Across our system, we have more than 18,000 MW of carbon-free resources currently operating, approved or under construction, and expect to have approximately 14,000 MW of renewable resources by 2024.

We welcome your support for advanced nuclear energy. Emission-free nuclear increases America's fuel diversity using an abundant, low-cost, reliable, 24/7 resource. In addition to six operating units, we are currently working to complete construction of the first new nuclear units built in the United States in the last three decades: Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4. This groundbreaking project would not have been possible without constructive partnerships and bipartisan support at the federal and state government levels.

Your plan to establish an Advanced Research Projects Agency focused on climate (ARPA-C) is consistent with Southern Company's longstanding, industry-leading investments in the research, development, demonstration and deployment (RDD&D) of innovative clean energy technologies. Decarbonization—including carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS), negative carbon solutions, enhanced energy efficiency and transportation electrification—will continue to be the major focus of our RDD&D efforts.

As we make meaningful shifts to decarbonize our economy, we are mindful of the impact these changes can have on our customers, communities and employees. In order to ensure a just transition, we will continue to prioritize putting customers at the center of everything we do, building a sustainable workforce and ensuring the communities we serve are better because we are there.

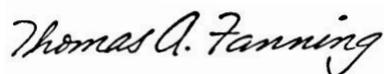
In addition to making our nation's infrastructure more sustainable and efficient, we also must work together to make it more resilient against the growing threat of cyber attacks. I am proud to serve on the bipartisan U.S. Cyberspace Solarium Commission, which has provided more than 80 recommendations for both government and the private sector to improve our nation's defenses against this existential threat. These recommendations were informed by my personal experience as a chief executive officer, former chief information officer, former chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and current co-chair of the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council (ESCC) and the Tri-Sector Working Group comprised of executives from the energy, finance and communications industries.

Finally, Southern Company is committed to standing with you to advance racial equity. We support the intentional, continual practice of evaluating and instituting policies, practices, systems and structures—across industry and government—that prioritize measurable change in the lives of people of color, and as a result, benefit all Americans. We also are aligning our volunteer, giving and community investment strategies, including a \$200 million commitment over the next five years to advance racial equity and social justice through education, criminal justice reform and economic empowerment.

Our continued success in each of these areas will require the support of policies that encourage and advance clean energy innovation; protect the affordability, reliability and resilience of service to customers; and fully embrace, respect and value our differences. We appreciate your strong commitment to each of these objectives, and we look forward to working with you and your administration to meet these shared goals.

I wish you and your loved ones all the best in the new year, with gratitude for your lifetime of continued leadership, service and dedication to our nation and its citizens.

Sincerely,



Thomas A. Fanning  
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

Cc: The Honorable Jennifer Granholm  
The Honorable Gina McCarthy