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Ryan, MacKinnon, Vasapoli and Berzok, LLP specializes in legislative and administrative representation. The firm's partners offer substantial experience in a range of areas including energy, telecommunications, trade, health care, securities and finance, the environment, as well as ethics.

The firm represents a diverse client base, including corporations, trade associations and not-for-profit organizations, on a range of complex issues before government agencies, Congressional committees and Federal courts.

Ryan, MacKinnon, Vasapoli and Berzok, LLP has earned a solid reputation for providing comprehensive bipartisan representation that focuses on direct and total client service.

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PARTNERS

Thomas M. Ryan

Jeffrey M. MacKinnon

Joseph V. Vasapoli

Matthew L. Berzok

Nick G. Kolovos

OF COUNSEL

George C. O'Connor

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THOMAS M. RYAN

Mr. Ryan specializes in legislation and public policy. He has extensive experience in the areas of telecommunications, the environment, energy, transportation, health and safety, consumer protection, commercial practices, and trade.

Mr. Ryan served as Chief Counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce from 1985 through 1987 and as Counsel to the Committee from 1977 to 1984. In these capacities, he advised the Chairman and Members of the Committee on policy and parliamentary matters and worked on a range of legislative and oversight issues. During his tenure, he was involved in the development and consideration of virtually all legislation within the jurisdiction of the Committee, which originated nearly forty percent of the legislation considered by the House of Representatives.

Mr. Ryan holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame and a Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center. He is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia.

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JEFFREY M. MacKINNON

Jeffrey MacKinnon has spent the past twenty-five years on the front lines of the important public policy debates in Washington.

He began his career in the office of Rep. Joe Barton (R-Tx), and for eight years covered a wide range of issues including energy, the environment, health care and telecommunications. For the last four years of his tenure with Mr. Barton, he was the congressman's legislative director. Among other activities, Mr. MacKinnon worked extensively on all titles of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

After serving two years as Director of Legislative Affairs for the Interstate Natural Gas Association (September, 1993-January, 1995), Mr. MacKinnon joined the law firm as a partner and is now entering his sixteenth year in this capacity. His practice with the firm has focused on energy, telecommunications and health care issues. In the years leading up to enactment of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 Mr. MacKinnon was the chief advocate for a coalition of investor-owned electric utilities addressing industry restructuring issues.

Jeff MacKinnon is a member of, and active in, several House republican member steering committees and serves as informal outside adviser to key republican members of the congressional committees and floor leadership.

Mr. MacKinnon holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Radford University.

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JOSEPH V. VASAPOLI

Joe Vasapoli has been helping to shape energy and environment policy for the past thirty years, occupying significant positions in both the private and public sectors.

At the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in the early 1980s, Mr. Vasapoli headed a legal task force that revamped the agency's approach to analyzing the environmental impacts of hydroelectric development and later, as an advisor to a member of the Commission, he aided in the formulation of federal regulatory policy on recovery of costs of nuclear power plants.

Mr. Vasapoli then became energy counsel to the republican members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. During this period, he was instrumental in the effort to terminate the U. S. Synthetic Fuels Corporation (a Carter Administration boondoggle) and crafted legislation affecting the oil, natural gas, electricity coal industries. This work culminated, among others, in the repeal of federal price controls on natural gas production.

In the private sector, Mr. Vasapoli was manager of federal regulatory affairs for a major electric power company (then called Cinergy, now known as Duke Energy) and, among other accomplishments, spearheaded an industry effort to support the FERC's Order 888 open access rules on transmission service.

Mr. Vasapoli has been a partner at Ryan, MacKinnon, Vasapoli and Berzok since 2001, and worked extensively on various energy bills that culminated in the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. He became an expert on electric power industry restructuring issues and contributed significantly to the writing of sections of that landmark legislation.

Mr. Vasapoli maintains active involvement on regulatory and legislative issues of interest to the energy industry, and throughout his career has focused on developing solid working relationships at FERC and with key members of the Congress. As a former republican congressional staffer, he has strong ties to republican members and staffers and is often called upon for policy advice and counsel.

Joe Vasapoli obtained his BA from Georgetown University, and a law degree from the William and Mary Law School. He is a member of the Virginia and District of Columbia bars.

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MATTHEW L. BERZOK

Mr. Berzok specializes in legislation and public policy. He has extensive experience in the areas of telecommunications, the environment, energy, healthcare, securities, consumer protection, and Congressional oversight and investigations.

Mr. Berzok served with Representative Bart Stupak from 1995-2001, most recently as Legislative Director and Chief Counsel. In these capacities, he handled all issues relating to the Congressman's assignment on the Energy and Commerce committee.

During his tenure, he was involved in the development and consideration of virtually all legislation within the jurisdiction of the Committee, including the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, the Graham-Leach-Bliley Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendment of 1996, the Pharmaceutical Drug Modernization Act. Prior to his service with Rep. Stupak, Mr. Berzok served as Legislative Assistant to Congressman Peter Deustch and Deputy Finance Director to former Rep. Sam Coppersmith's senatorial bid.

Mr. Berzok holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago and a Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center. He is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia, New York and Connecticut.

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NICK G. KOLOVOS

Mr. Kolovos specializes in legislative and regulatory affairs and public policy with extensive experience in the telecommunications and high-tech industries. For the past ten years he has worked closely with many of the country's largest and most innovative high-tech, cable and telecommunications companies.

From 2000-2003 Mr. Kolovos served as Senior Legislative Assistant and Counsel for Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo (D-Calif) where he led the development of Rep. Eshoo's legislative agenda and high-tech policy. During that time he was involved in legislation on comprehensive telecom reform and other issues within the House Energy and Commerce Committee. He came to Rep. Eshoo's staff after serving as an attorney in the Federal Communication Commission's Wireless Bureau where he developed research strategy for a variety of complex wireless telecommunications issues.

Mr. Kolovos' prior experience includes lobbying on behalf of the cable industry as Vice President of Government Relations at the National Cable & Telecommunications Association, the wireless industry while Director of Government Affairs with CTIA – the Wireless Association, and the high-tech industry as Counsel and Director of Government Affairs at the Information Technology Industry Council, a trade association representing leading high-tech companies.

Mr. Kolovos is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University and the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Illinois. He has also served two judicial clerkships; first, for the Honorable Edward H. Johnstone of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky, followed by his service to the Honorable Peter C. Economus of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

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GEORGE C. O'CONNOR
Of Counsel

Mr. O'Connor was associated with the law firm of Stein, Mitchell, & Mezines from 1980 to 1982, where he shared responsibility for complex civil litigation cases in federal courts and administrative law litigation before the Federal Trade Commission.

He became a trial attorney with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) Office of General Counsel in 1982. Mr. O'Connor worked as legal and policy advisor to FERC Commissioner Charles A. Trabandt from 1985 through 1993. He worked in FERC's Office of General Counsel as an attorney writing Commission orders from 1994 until 1998. During his tenure at the Commission Mr. O'Connor wrote a law review article printed in the *Energy Law Journal*, Volume 14, No. 1, (1993), entitled *Will the Commission's Hydropower Program Revive in the '90s?*

In 1998, Mr. O'Connor's leadership on energy policy was recognized when the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee requested that he be detailed from the FERC to the Committee to provide expert advice and assistance to staff on energy policy issues. Mr. O'Connor was heavily involved with the development, passage and brokering of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, including the provisions amending the Federal Power Act and the Natural Gas Act.

Mr. O'Connor's experience includes regulatory practice, FERC and Senate staff leadership and he has a proven record of working with both democrats and republicans in Congress and at the FERC. After almost 24 years of federal service, Mr. O'Connor retired on September 6, 2005.

From September 7, 2005 to March, 2008 Mr. O'Connor was a Partner with the law firm of Ryan, Phillips, Utrecht & MacKinnon in Washington, D.C. where he provided regulatory and legislative counseling to clients in the energy industry. On March 3, 2008, he was hired by Entergy Corporation to lead its Washington, D.C. office as Vice President of Federal Governmental Affairs. During his tenure with Entergy, Mr. O'Connor worked with members of Congress to develop their understanding of Entergy's operational and business models and helped to shape numerous congressional climate and energy legislative initiatives. He also closely followed transmission regulatory activity at FERC, nuclear relicensing proceedings at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and clean air compliance activity at the EPA. On November 8, 2010, Mr. O'Connor returned to the law firm renamed Ryan, MacKinnon, Vasapoli & Berzok, as Of Counsel.

Mr. O'Connor received a B.A. from Fordham University in the Bronx, New York in 1973, and a J.D. from George Mason University School of Law in Arlington, Virginia in 1980. He is a member of the Virginia State Bar and the District of Columbia Bar and is a current member of the Energy Bar Association. Mr. O'Connor is also admitted to practice before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and the District of Columbia Circuit.