



the FOUNDATION FOR
INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCE

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<https://fir.foundation/>

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New Foundation Announced Today to Protect America's Critical Infrastructure

A new Foundation was announced today by its first President Stephen Vollandt, chartered to “help ensure the continuity of the United States by facilitating sustainable communities and resilient critical infrastructures, fortified against threats and meeting the needs of the 21st century”, a quote from the organization’s mission statement. The Foundation for Infrastructure Resilience (FIR) “seeks to educate the public and our policymakers about the critical need to protect our fragile grid, supply chain and other critical infrastructures essential to our way of life,” said Vollandt.

FIR’s initial membership consists of approximately 100 scientists, security professionals, academics and business leaders dedicated to protecting America’s 16 critical infrastructures identified by the Presidential Policy Directive 21 (PPD-21). Foremost among these are the electric power grid, our water supply and distribution, our food supply and our health care systems. “So many Americans are not aware of the fragility of our systems they live by every day,” said FIR President Steve Vollandt. “As we saw during the pandemic, our supply chain broke down and huge shortages occurred. Just imagine what would happen without water, or power or mobility. An attack on our grid or even a strong solar storm could be devastating to our society as a whole, and shockingly, we are unprepared” said Vollandt.

FIR's leadership and membership include Chief of Staff, Maj Gen (ret) Luke Reiner, former Adjutant General of the Wyoming National Guard, Rob Hartwell, a former Congressional Chief of Staff, Ambassador Hank Cooper, Director of President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative and Dr. George Baker a Member of the Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Commission. "Two EMP Commission reports, and a Presidential Executive Order by President Trump in 2019, upheld by the Biden Administration, lays the groundwork for this next Congress and Administration to act," said Public Policy VP Rob Hartwell. "The time for study, and Commissions and reports is over. This issue is too important to sit on the back burner any longer. The new Congress and Administration must act!"