

Building Together

By Thomas A. Fanning

Southern Company Chairman, President and CEO

**John D. Dingell Award Presentation
The National Labor and Management
Public Affairs Committee (LAMPAC)**

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Remarks on being a co-recipient, with North America's Building Trades Unions President Sean McGarvey, of the John D. Dingell Award from the National LAMPAC

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Thanks. It's fantastic to be here; it really is an honor.

I think the kind of partnership that we talk about – the shared values that we have between North America's Building Trades Unions and the electric utility industry – is something remarkable.

And it's remarkable in the fact that, when you consider all of the challenges that we face as a nation, as a world – think about all the malaise that we see in Europe, Russia and the Middle East. The lack of growth in China and “Abenomics” in Japan. And when you think about some of the challenges that we face here in the United States, I'm so proud that, for those who want to dumb down American aspirations and accept lower economic growth and unacceptably high unemployment, a relationship like this can give people hope and a way to play offense in this challenged environment.

You know, I always like to put a face on these issues. And it really goes not to our organizations, but to the families we're privileged to serve. Hard-working families who struggle to make tough, kitchen-table economic decisions every day. And what they want is a better life for their children. A better place to live. Better medical care. Better food on the table. Better education. And we can play offense. We can give them a way forward to help demonstrate that we can create in our economy an unassailable advantage to grow jobs, grow personal incomes and make American lives better. That's what this union represents.

Now, this is the highest of callings, and I think the new nuclear units being built at Georgia Power's Plant Vogtle 3 & 4 are great examples of that. I think nuclear – for America, our energy portfolio of the future – is a dominant solution. We can't do it without the Building Trades. The thousands of men and women who are onsite every day – a good, hard day's work for a good day's pay in a safe environment. And we all pull together in that respect. So I just can't say enough about our shared values. About the notion that, even beyond the job site, that we are together committed to making communities better off because we're there. That represents all that is good and ideal about America.

In closing, I just want to offer up a southern saying: “You are known by your friends.” I've known Sean McGarvey, the Building Trades president, for a long time. He is a friend. The values that are shared between our industry and the Building Trades represent the kind of folks you want to associate with. We have a common goal: to give people hope, to play offense, to show a way forward that makes us all better. And, at the end of the day, while these awards are in my name and in Sean's name, we will be the first two to say that it's not about us; it's about the thousands of folks who really represent the hard work and boots on the ground and really carry out the important work of America. It's this kind of partnership that makes me so thankful to be here.

Thank you.

Thomas A. (Tom) Fanning

Chairman, President, CEO • Southern Company

Thomas A. (Tom) Fanning is chairman, president and chief executive officer of Southern Company, one of America's largest producers of electricity. Elected by the board of directors in July 2010, Fanning became president of Southern Company in August 2010 and assumed the additional responsibilities of CEO and chairman in December 2010.



Prior to assuming the role of chief financial officer, Fanning was president and CEO of Gulf Power.

Fanning serves as chair of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, and is on the Georgia Tech College of Management advisory board, the board of trustees for the Georgia Tech Foundation, the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations board of directors and the World Association of Nuclear Operators -

Fanning has worked for Southern Company for more than 30 years and has held 15 different positions in eight different business units, including numerous officer positions with a variety of Southern Company subsidiaries in the areas of finance, strategy, international business development and technology.

Most recently, Fanning served as chief operating officer, where he was responsible for Southern Company's generation and transmission, engineering and construction services, research and environmental affairs, system planning and competitive generation business units. Fanning also was responsible for leading Southern Company's efforts on business strategy and served as a director of Southern Nuclear, Southern Company's nuclear plant operating company.

Fanning previously was the company's chief financial officer, where he was responsible for the accounting, finance, tax, investor relations, treasury and risk management functions. In this role, he served as the chief risk officer and had responsibility for corporate strategy.

Atlanta Centre governing board. He serves on the board of directors for Vulcan Materials Company and also is vice chairman of the Edison Electric Institute and a member of the Business Roundtable.

Fanning is chairman of the Electric Subsector Coordinating Council, which serves as the principal liaison between the federal government and the electric power sector to protect the electric grid from threats that could impact national security. Fanning also is a member of the international advisory board of the Atlantic Council, which promotes constructive leadership and engagement in international affairs.

Fanning earned bachelor's and master's degrees in industrial management and also was awarded an honorary doctor of philosophy degree from Georgia Tech. His executive education includes programs at the International Institute for Management Development in Lausanne, Switzerland, the Harvard University School of Business and the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business.

