

ACORE's 2023 Priorities for Transmission Permitting and Siting Legislation

Last December, ACORE [expressed support](#) for the transmission provisions in the *Building American Energy Security Act of 2022* noting that “while the language should be stronger and address more challenges, the transmission reforms in this latest version of the bill will help facilitate new investment in this critical infrastructure.”

With a fresh start in 2023 for the achievement of meaningful siting and permitting reforms, ACORE is happy to outline here its transmission siting priorities for such legislation:

- Replace the current lengthy process for the use of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)'s backstop siting authority subsequent to a Department of Energy (DOE) national interest corridor designation and state action with a more efficient process:
 - FERC can request DOE designation of a transmission line as being in the national interest, subject to certain findings, and then issue a permit for that line (subsequent to environmental review).
 - Grant DOE the ability to automatically designate lines in the national interest that are eligible for a FERC permit based on a set of objective criteria, such as those identified in the Streamlining Interstate Transmission of Electricity (SITE) Act: interstate lines with a capacity of at least 1,000 megawatts or mega volt-amperes.
- Allow regional planning entities, utilities, and merchant transmission developers to petition FERC directly to request that DOE designate specific projects as being in the national interest.
- Provide that national interest lines will be subject only to a single environmental impact statement or environmental assessment.
- Clarify that the costs of transmission lines should be allocated commensurate with benefits and that such allocation can occur across, not just within, planning regions.
- Provide and facilitate opportunities for impacted communities to engage early in the siting and permitting process, including the provision of additional funding to support such efforts and for economic development in such communities.