



April 24, 2023

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
 Chair
 Energy & Water Development
 Senate Appropriations Committee
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Kennedy
 Ranking Member
 Energy & Water Development
 Senate Appropriations Committee
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
 Chair
 Energy & Water Development
 House Appropriations Committee
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
 Ranking Member
 Energy & Water Development
 House Appropriations Committee
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Feinstein, Ranking Member Kennedy, Chair Fleischmann, and Ranking Member Kaptur,

As companies and organizations committed to building America’s clean energy future, we write to request that Fiscal Year 2024 Energy and Water Appropriations provide robust funding for high-capacity transmission deployment and research through the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Grid Deployment Office (GDO) and Office of Electricity (OE).

The expansion and modernization of our national power grid is central to meeting our urgent climate and energy security goals. According to DOE’s draft Transmission Needs Study, “there is a pressing need for additional electric transmission infrastructure” in nearly all regions of the country.¹

Research shows that to maximize the carbon emission reduction benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act, the nation will need to more than double the historical pace of electricity transmission expansion over the last decade in order to interconnect new clean energy resources and meet the growing demand from electric vehicles, heat pumps, and other electrification.²

¹ <https://www.energy.gov/gdo/national-transmission-needs-study>

² https://repeatproject.org/docs/REPEAT_IRA_Transmission_2022-09-22.pdf

Recent studies of extreme weather events also demonstrate the significant value of an expansion of interregional transmission. During Winter Storm Uri, each additional gigawatt of transmission capacity would have saved businesses and homeowners roughly \$1 billion and kept the lights on for 200,000 homes.³ Comparable additions of interregional capacity would have yielded nearly \$100 million in benefits during the more recent Winter Storm Elliott.⁴ Strengthening transmission is an essential solution for preventing future outages, increasing grid reliability, and guarding against loss of life.

Given that this funding is critical to drive substantial clean energy deployment, unleash billions in private investment, create thousands of new jobs, deliver low-cost energy to benefit customers, and substantially reduce emissions, we encourage the Subcommittee to consider the following:

- **Funding for the GDO:** The GDO, within the Office of the Under Secretary for Infrastructure, serves as the catalyst for the development of new and upgraded high-capacity electric transmission lines nationwide. We are requesting \$107 million in FY24 funding for the GDO, to support innovative efforts to address planning and permitting challenges to enable a resilient and reliable electricity system. We are also supportive of GDO efforts to designate National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors on a route-specific, applicant driven basis, pursuant to Section 216 of the Federal Power Act.
- **Funding for the OE:** The OE drives electric grid modernization and resilience in energy infrastructure. OE leads the DOE's efforts to strengthen, transform, and improve electricity delivery infrastructure so that consumers have access to resilient, secure, and clean sources of energy. We are requesting \$385 million in FY24 funding for the OE, to help ensure our electric grid is resilient to increasingly severe weather, cyber, and physical attacks. In particular, we support research and development efforts and demonstrations to reduce the costs of HVDC technology and long-distance transmission, including for nascent superconducting technology. We are also supportive of robust investments in the *Transmission Reliability and Resilience* program, focused on ensuring the reliability and resilience of the U.S. electric grid through R&D on system observability and control capabilities, and the *Applied Grid Transformation Solutions* program, focused on testing new grid systems and subsystems, including energy storage transmission, distribution, and power control and conversion hardware and associated software.
- **Funding for the Energy Information Administration (EIA):** The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) directed EIA to develop a publicly available dashboard detailing the greenhouse gas emissions data of every megawatt-hour of electricity generated at the Balancing Authority level and harmonize these data with data collected from the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies. With this granular level of data, EIA will be able to provide consistent and publicly accessible information detailing the real-time impact of electricity deployed on the nation's grid. This information will help government agencies and energy customers alike understand and manage the emissions impact of their electricity usage and will enable a vast array of climate-aware projects and purchasing decisions for individuals and businesses. We are requesting \$156.55 million for total EIA FY24 funding to help support these efforts.

³ <https://acore.org/transmission-makes-the-power-system-resilient-to-extreme-weather/>

⁴ <https://acore.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/The-Value-of-Transmission-During-Winter-Storm-Elliott-ACORE.pdf>

These investments in grid infrastructure will be critical moving forward. We thank you for your consideration and hope that you will support transmission in the Fiscal Year 2024 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

Sincerely,

Advanced Energy United
Alliance For Clean Energy New York
American Clean Power Association
American Council on Renewable Energy
Americans for a Clean Energy Grid
BayWa r.e.
Berkshire Hathaway Energy
BlueGreen Alliance
Business Council for Sustainable Energy
Clean Energy Buyers Association
Clean Grid Alliance
Conservative Energy Network
CTC Global
Cubico Sustainable Investments
Cypress Creek Renewables
Enel North America
Great Plains Institute
Grid United
Hannon Armstrong Sustainable Infrastructure
Capital
Innergex Renewable Energy
Invenergy

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local Unit 1245
Longroad Energy
National Electrical Manufacturers Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
NextEra Energy Transmission
Niskanen Center
Onward Energy
Pattern Energy
Pine Gate Renewables
Renewable Northwest
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Sol Systems
Solar Energy Industries Association
SOLV Energy
Southern Renewable Energy Association
SuperNode
Third Way
TPI Composites
VEIR
Vestas-American Wind Technology, Inc.