

April 30, 2024

The Honorable Patty Murray
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

Additional Borrowing Authority for the Transmission Facilitation Program (TFP): The TFP was funded at \$2.5 billion under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to accelerate the buildout of large-scale, high-voltage transmission projects. Under this revolving fund program, DOE targets shovel-ready projects and acts as an anchor tenant by purchasing capacity on a line until generation appears. Such arrangements can help these lines overcome the immediate financial hurdles to construction with the promise of far greater returns over their lifespan. We are requesting an additional \$5 billion for TFP, including the \$750 million authorized by IIJA for FY25, to enable more long-haul projects.

Funding for the OE: The OE provides national leadership to strengthen and enhance the largest electricity delivery system in the world. As the office responsible for the cyber and physical security of U.S. energy infrastructure, the OE oversees research, development, and demonstration programs in partnership with local, state, and regional officials to keep essential services running. We urge the Subcommittee to support no less than \$293 million in FY25 funding for the OE. In particular, we support efforts to improve the availability and affordability of high-voltage direct-current (HVDC) technology, which can serve as jumper cables for the grid after a blackout.

Funding for the LPO: The LPO offers debt financing for large-scale transmission projects and other high-impact commercial energy infrastructure through authorities such as the Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program and Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment Program. To scale the flexible capital necessary for widespread deployment of new and improved transmission technologies, we urge the Subcommittee to support no less than \$55 million in FY25 funding for Title 17 administrative expenses.

As National Renewable Energy Laboratory has estimated, the accelerated deployment of clean energy projects supported by these activities will require over 1.6 million new jobs by 2030, and opportunities exist in all 50 states.^{ix} In keeping with the ideals of a just and equitable transition, we are committed to ensuring that this funding leaves no community behind. To that end, we seek the Subcommittee

These investments in grid infrastructure will be essential moving forward. We thank you for your consideration and hope that you will support transmission in the Fiscal Year 2025 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill.

Sincerely,

Advanced Energy United
Advanced Power Alliance
Advancing Modern Powerlines (AMP) Coalition
Alliance for Clean Energy New York
American Clean Power Association
American Council on Renewable Energy
Business Council for Sustainable Energy
Berkshire Hathaway Energy
Ceres
Clean Energy Buyers Association
Clean Grid Alliance

Conservative Energy Network
CTC Global
EarthGrid
Grid Action
Grid United
Hannon Armstrong Sustainable Infrastructure
Innergex
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local Unit 1245
Interwest Energy Alliance
Invenergy LLC
League of Conservation Voters
Longroad Energy
MAREC Action
National Electrical Manufacturers Association
National Wildlife Federation
Natural Resources Defense Council
NextEra Energy Transmission
Niskanen Center
Oceantic Network
Onward Energy
RENEW Northeast
Renewable Northwest
Pattern Energy
Sierra Club
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Solar Energy Industries Association
Sol Systems
Southern Renewable Energy Association
SouthWestern Power Group
Third Way
VEIR, Inc.
Working for Advanced Transmission Technologies (WATT) Coalition

ⁱ <https://gridstrategiesllc.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/National-Load-Growth-Report-2023.pdf>.

ⁱⁱ <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/impact-genai-electricity-how-fueling-data-center-boom-vivian-lee/>.

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://emp.lbl.gov/queues>.

^{iv} <https://www.stripes.com/opinion/2023-12-18/us-electric-grid-capacity-12398317.html>.

^v <https://www.airforcetimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2021/03/27/winter-storm-uri-spotlights-gaps-in-military-base-preparedness/>.

^{vi} <https://www.eenews.net/articles/tensions-at-home-and-abroad-pose-growing-threat-to-us-grid/>.

^{vii} <https://acore.org/news/communities-could-have-saved-nearly-100m-kept-lights-on-during-winter-storm-elliott-by-adding-transmission/>.

^{viii} <https://acore.org/news/more-interregional-transmission-could-have-saved-nearly-1-billion-preserved-power-for-200000-homes-during-texas-freeze/>.

^{ix} <https://www.nrel.gov/state-local-tribal/state-employment-projection-support.html>.