



June 3, 2024

The Honorable Jeff Duncan
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee,
Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, & Grid
Security
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Diana Degette
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee,
Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, & Grid
Security
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Duncan and Ranking Member Degette:

On behalf of the [Clean Energy Buyers Association](#) (CEBA), whose more than 400 members represent over \$15 trillion in market capitalization and include one fifth of the Fortune 500, I am writing to urge you to continue working toward modernizing federal siting and permitting that upgrades the nation's power grid system through new generation and improved electricity transmission capacity in the United States.

Collectively, CEBA's membership is driving billions of dollars in new investments across the country. Our ability to continue to grow and innovate is directly tied to our ability to access affordable, reliable, and clean energy to power our operations.

The U.S. electric grid is vital to our nation's economy, our healthcare system, our national defense, and our homes and schools. It is one of the greatest engineering feats of the 20th century, but it is in urgent need of 21st-century modernization. Right now, outdated federal permitting policies and aging grid infrastructure are standing in the way of new investments in the U.S. economy.

The pace of demand growth for electricity across the nation is expected to nearly [double](#) in the next five years. This real and sizable growth is coming from a variety of [sectors](#), including reshoring of manufacturing, oil and gas production, electrification, and huge growth in the needs of a data-driven economy. We want to clear the path for more investment and innovation to happen here in the United States, and a modern electric grid is crucial to doing so.

As large electricity customers, we are already experiencing barriers to reliable power across the country. Currently, nearly 2.6 terawatts of generation and storage of all types remain stuck in interconnection queues across the nation, in part due to transmission congestion that prevents these projects from coming online. At the same time, extreme weather events increasingly threaten the power grid's reliability and stability, which comes at a huge cost to all power consumers. Under our current transmission system, severe thunderstorms, as we've seen this past month in Houston, Texas, can deprive thousands of consumers and businesses of power, and productivity in turn, and even lives lost, in an instant. This should not be the case in 21st-century America.

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Modernizing and expanding the U.S. power system will lower energy customer costs, improve reliability, and help meet the growing demand for electricity across the country. This will attract investment and manufacturing that advances our shared goals of creating jobs for American workers, protecting national security through grid resilience, fostering innovation, and growing the economy.

Our members are also working on solutions. In fact, just this past week, Nucor, Amazon, Google, and Microsoft [announced agreements](#) with Duke Energy to develop new, voluntary rate structures for commercial and industrial customers, designed specifically to lower the long-term costs of investing in clean energy technologies like new nuclear and long-duration storage through early commitments. These new tariffs will help utilities serve the future energy needs of large businesses in North Carolina and South Carolina while also including protections for non-participating customers.

We applaud you for holding a hearing to examine the opportunities, risks, and challenges associated with growth in electric power demand across the United States. We respectfully urge the Committee to continue working in earnest to develop and pass bipartisan legislation reforming federal transmission siting and permitting.

The recent rules from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), permitting reform legislation passed by this Congress last year, and actions from the U.S. Department of Energy are important steps, but only Congress can make the deeper, legislative reforms that are ultimately needed. We look forward to working with you on this important legislation. The backbone of the modern economy cannot wait.

Sincerely,



Rich Powell
CEO, Clean Energy Buyers Association (CEBA)

CC: House Energy and Commerce Committee Members