

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 26, 2024

Willie L. Phillips
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Docket No. RM21-17-000

Dear Chairman Phillips,

In your position as Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or the Commission) we write to ask you to finalize the Commission's pending regional transmission planning and cost allocation rule as soon as possible. FERC has undertaken extensive work on this rule for over two years and consulted with a wide variety of stakeholders. It is now time to issue a strong final rule to meet the nation's 21st century transmission needs.

Improving our grid's reliability makes it harder for our adversaries to launch widespread cyber and physical attacks, while also reducing the impact and duration of power outages due to severe weather events. Increased transmission also generates significant benefits, such as creating good-paying jobs, bolstering the availability of regional clean energy sources, connecting more energy resources of all types to the grid, and incenting domestic energy production—while also reducing energy bills by hundreds of dollars per year.

The Commission's final rule should require that transmission planners commit to long-term and forward-looking assessments of their energy mix, needs, and demands – even when that includes continued reliance on fossil fuels. FERC's final rule should also specify economic and reliability-based benefits and incorporate state input regarding cost allocation. This should include a means of resolving disagreements and allocating costs to customers in a way that is “roughly commensurate” with benefits, in keeping with long-standing precedent.

It is time to unlock America's energy potential and create regulatory certainty for our nation's utility sector. A strong, meaningful, and final rule on transmission must be issued as soon as possible. We look forward to the Commission's release of its final rule and continuing to work with you on the critical issues facing our country.

Sincerely,

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



Anthony D'Esposito
Member of Congress



Nicholas A. Langworthy
Member of Congress



Brandon Williams
Member of Congress