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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-3641

Minority (202) 225-2927

April 22, 2025

Mr. Todd Brickhouse
Chief Executive Officer and General Manager
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
1717 E Interstate Avenue
Bismark, ND 58503

Dear Mr. Brickhouse:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Energy on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, to testify at the hearing entitled “Scaling for Growth: Meeting the Demand for Reliable, Affordable Electricity.”

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Tuesday, May 6, 2025. Your responses should be mailed to Calvin Huggins Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed to Calvin.Huggins1@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert E. Latta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Latta" being more prominent than the middle initial "E".

Robert E. Latta
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy

cc: Kathy Castor, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy

Attachment

Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Robert E. Latta

1. We all agree on the importance of modernizing our infrastructure to ensure we reliably get power to AI data centers. As the co-chair of the Grid Innovation Caucus, I am interested in grid enhancing technologies that improve the performance of the transmission system. An example is the use of advanced power conductors that can double capacity of the grid using the same right of way.
 - a. Can you please comment on this approach to ensure we get the most out of the current grid by deploying modern technology?
2. Economic Development and Forecasting Consistency: Accurate and transparent electricity load forecasting is a linchpin of modern economic development. States rely on these forecasts to plan new industrial parks, data centers, and manufacturing hubs, while utilities use them to schedule grid expansions and major infrastructure investments. Despite the vital role of load forecasts in spurring economic growth, practices vary widely among states, often leading to inconsistent data, misaligned investment signals, and unnecessary risk for both utilities, and both large and residential customers. Concerns have been raised that a patchwork of forecasting methodologies can exacerbate speculation in large load interconnection requests, inflate demand projections, and drive-up costs.
 - a. Recognizing these issues cross both state and federal jurisdictions and regional differences, how do you think Congress can play a role in establishing a baseline of consistency across state jurisdictions that will help align economic development strategies with reliable, cost-effective grid planning?
3. Regarding planning for transmission, what specific impediments have you identified to current state and regional planning for the siting of transmission projects?
 - a. What are examples of impediments you have identified and what is necessary for system planners to overcome these impediments?
 - b. What reforms do you recommend to improve state and regional planning to overcome these impediments?
4. In the last Congress and the previous administration, there was a lot of talk about transmission policy reform.
 - a. How does Basin plan transmission in your region and with other regions? What should Members understand about the nature of transmission planning as it exists today?

- b. Does a top-down approach, through FERC, serve the interests of utilities and grid operators that are already expending tremendous time and engineering resources on design new transmission?
- 5. As you know, a diverse fuel supply including natural gas is helping to ease the grid constraints that we are experiencing in many regions of the country.
 - a. Would you please discuss how the attributes of natural gas – for example, the ability to provide “peaking power” and load management help to manage the grid?
 - b. What role is natural gas playing behind the meter, through onsite generation and backup power?

The Honorable John James

- 1. Governor Whitmer signed Senate Bill 271 in November 2023 to require Michigan to achieve “net zero” emissions by 2040. Now the Democrats will say that this will create jobs and opportunities will be abundant. But the reality in my home state of Michigan tells a different story. These policies and laws strike fear and create hesitancy for manufacturers to consider setting up shop in Michigan before they consider states like North Carolina or Ohio.

Michigan remembers the Great Recession, where 50% of all the jobs lost in all of America were lost in OUR state alone. We lost jobs to Mexico and China. SB 271 and the Green New Scam agenda plan cannot meet demand for industry or to stand up data centers. What’s worse, the Biden administration’s harmful regulations limited the ability to build new natural gas plants needed to meet growing demands.

President Trump has a mandate to usher in innovation and reindustrialization, especially in Michigan where his message was accepted loud and clear. We need reliable energy to get this done. If we want to continue pursuing unreliable and unrealistic energy agendas then we can expect less manufacturing jobs and less innovation to come and stay in states like Michigan.

- a. You discussed various regulations that the Biden EPA put on the power plant sector that would severely limit the ability to build new natural gas plants needed to meet growing demand and impose massive compliance costs on existing plants. While I'm confident the Trump EPA will seek to reverse these harmful restrictions, how does the lack of clear and durable federal rules impact Basin Electric and other co-ops?