U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Energy
"Assuring Abundant, Reliable American Energy to Power Innovation"
April 30, 2025
Documents for the Record

1. Letter from the American Public Power Association, addressed to Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Latta, and Ranking Member Castor, submitted by the Majority.
2. Letter from the Independent Woman's Voice, addressed to Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Latta, and Ranking Member Castor, supporting H.R. 1949, submitted by the Majority.
3. Letter from the Independent Woman's Voice, addressed to Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Latta, and Ranking Member Castor, supporting Securing America's Critical Minerals Supply Act, submitted by the Majority.
4. Letter from GE Vernova, addressed to Chairman Latta and Ranking Member Castor, submitted by Rep. Latta.
5. Letter from The Williams Company, addressed to Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone, submitted by the Majority.
6. Letter from the Industrial Energy Consumers of America, addressed to Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone, submitted by the Minority.
7. A letter from multiple organizations, submitted by the Minority.
8. A letter from American Whitewater, addressed to Chairman Latta and Ranking Member Castor, submitted by the Minority.
9. A letter from multiple organizations, addressed to Secretary of Energy Chris Wright, submitted by Rep. Auchincloss.
10. A letter from the Natural Resources Defense Council, addressed to Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Latta, and Ranking Member Castor, submitted by the Minority.

April 30, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bob Latta
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kathy Castor
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy
Energy & Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Latta, and Ranking Member Castor:

The American Public Power Association (APPA) appreciates the opportunity to submit a letter in support of the Reliable Power Act, which would require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to review federal agency actions that are likely to have significant negative impacts on the reliability and adequacy of the bulk-power system. APPA appreciates the committee's work on the Reliable Power Act and its ongoing efforts to support grid reliability and resource adequacy.

APPA is the national trade organization representing the interests of the nation's 2,000 not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities. Public power utilities are in every state except Hawaii. They collectively serve over 55 million people in 49 states and five U.S. territories, and account for 15 percent of all sales of electric energy (kilowatt-hours) to end-use consumers. Public power utilities are load-serving entities, with the primary goal of providing the communities they serve with safe, reliable electric service at the lowest reasonable cost, consistent with good environmental stewardship. This orientation aligns the interests of the utilities with the long-term interests of the residents and businesses in their communities. While public power utilities serve some of the nation's largest cities, nearly 1,600 of the 2,000 in operation serve rural communities.

Grid Reliability & Resource Adequacy

Utilities are facing unprecedented demand growth from traditional loads, data centers, and electrification, all while traditional generation is retiring prematurely, and new, reliable generation cannot be built quickly enough. Addressing these challenges will require a variety of solutions, including continued congressional oversight to ensure an efficient and effective interconnection process for new generating resources; enhanced coordination of the gas and electric sectors to ensure reliability; energy permitting reform to allow utilities to build needed generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure quickly and affordably; and appropriate public-private collaboration to ensure a robust supply chain of critical electric components.

Today, the Energy Subcommittee will examine several bills intended to support a reliable electric grid, a goal that APPA and its members strongly support. In considering these bills, APPA encourages the committee to ensure that any legislation incorporates sufficient flexibility, respects regional differences, and proposes durable solutions that will allow FERC, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), grid operators, and most critically, load-serving entities – including public power utilities – to provide reliable power not only during this current period of demand growth but also for decades to come.

Reliable Power Act

APPA supports efforts in Congress to provide FERC with a formal role in determining the potential reliability impact of federal regulations. Further, APPA believes that, should FERC determine a proposed regulation would adversely impact the reliable operation of the bulk-power system, the issuing agency should be required to make necessary modifications. Given the critical responsibility of FERC to assist electric customers in obtaining reliable, safe, secure, and economically efficient energy services at a reasonable cost, APPA believes FERC must have the appropriate authority to determine and mitigate significant reliability impacts of major regulations. This would allow electric utilities, including public power utilities, to comply with such regulations without adversely affecting regional or local electric system reliability. [*See APPA Resolution 24-03, "In Support of Electric Reliability."]*

APPA believes it appropriate for NERC, which has years of experience conducting long-term reliability assessments, to initially assess whether the bulk-power system is at risk of being unable to supply future energy demands before FERC can exercise authority to review regulations. APPA encourages the committee to consider providing NERC with more statutory flexibility in conducting the long-term reliability assessment to ensure the solutions proposed by the Reliable Power Act are durable and NERC can continue to improve its techniques, analysis, and solutions as the needs of the grid evolve.

APPA urges support for the Reliable Power Act and looks forward to working with the committee on further legislative solutions to strengthen grid reliability and ensure public power utilities can continue to provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity to their communities and your constituents.

Sincerely,

Desmarie Waterhouse
Senior Vice President, Advocacy and Communications & General Counsel

Resolution 24-03

Sponsors: California Municipal Utilities Association; Illinois Municipal Electric Agency; Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association; Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities, Irrigation and Electrical Districts Association of Arizona; NMPP Energy, Michigan Municipal Electric Association; Tennessee Valley Public Power Association; American Municipal Power; Ohio Municipal Electric Association

In Support of Electric Reliability

The American Public Power Association (APPA) strongly supports efforts to maintain and improve the reliability of the nation's electric grid. Electricity is the lifeblood not only of the individual communities that public power utilities serve, but also of our nation's economic and national security. Maintaining reliable service is the number one priority for electric utilities, despite increasing challenges from extreme weather, physical and cyber security threats, changes in generation mix, and increased load due to electrification. Public power utilities lead the industry in reliability, usually delivering more reliable electric service compared with other types of utilities.

Even with a strong record of delivering reliable service, public power utilities know there is more work to be done amid growing threats to electric reliability. In addition to external threats like extreme weather and cyber or physical attacks, public power utilities must also ensure reliability as local, state, and/or federal policies impact the generation mix, causing premature retirements of fossil fuel assets, and impact load growth by promoting the electrification of transportation, industrial processes, and home appliances. APPA believes that federal policymakers should consider electric reliability paramount and should take it into account in making important policy decisions, including major federal regulations.

As part of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) mission to protect consumers in obtaining reliable, safe, secure, and economically efficient energy services at a reasonable cost, FERC must have both the authority and obligation to analyze the potential reliability impacts of major proposed and final federal regulations, including those proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency. Without such a process in place, federal policymakers could finalize regulations or laws that could significantly harm electric reliability, putting at risk the health, safety, and economic prosperity of all Americans, including those served by public power.

Additionally, Federal Power Act section 202(c) gives the Secretary of Energy the authority to issue must-run orders to individual power plants during emergencies, including a sudden increase in electricity demand or a shortage of electricity. These must-run orders temporarily allow generation facilities to exceed their emissions limitations under environmental regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the American Public Power Association (APPA) strongly supports efforts to maintain and improve the reliability of the nation's electric grid; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That APPA believes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) should be given the authority, and has an obligation to, analyze the potential reliability impacts of major proposed and final federal regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That APPA supports efforts by Congress to enact legislation that would provide FERC with a formal role in determining the potential reliability impacts of major proposed and final federal regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That APPA believes that should FERC determine a major proposed or final federal regulation would adversely affect the reliable operation of the bulk electric system, it must proactively work with the issuing agency, which should be required to make the necessary modifications to the proposed or final federal regulation to allow electric utilities, including public power utilities, to comply with such regulations without adversely impacting regional or local electric system reliability.

Adopted at the Legislative & Resolutions Committee Meeting
February 27, 2024
Sunsets in March 2032

Independent Women Applauds Introduction of The Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act (H. R. 1949)

April 30, 2025

The U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee
Chairman Guthrie
Ranking Member Pallone

Subcommittee on Energy
Chairman Latta
Ranking Member Castor

Dear Chairmen Guthrie and Latta and Ranking Members Pallone and Castor:

On behalf of Independent Women, I strongly applaud the House of Representatives for introducing **H. R. 1949**, the Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act, by Rep. Austin Pfluger (R-TX). Independent Women fights for women and their loved ones by effectively expanding support for policy solutions that aren't just well-intended but actually enhance people's freedom, opportunities, and well-being.

H.R. 1949 would lift restrictions on the import and export of natural gas. The Biden Administration **paused** liquified natural gas (LNG) projects by effectively banning the construction of new LNG export terminals - a decision that had negative economic, national security, and environmental implications. These policies undermine our energy independence goals and weaken our standing globally. This bill would reverse this ill-conceived policy.

Natural gas is clean burning fuel producing low emissions, and the largest U.S. electricity generation source, accounting for **43.1%** of electricity production. This energy source will also be critical for meeting growing electricity demand – especially from artificial intelligence (AI) data centers.

For all these reasons, we urge Congress to work toward the swift passage of this bill. Independent Women thanks Representative Pfluger for his leadership on this issue.

Respectfully,

Gabriella Hoffman
Director, Center for Energy and Conservation
Independent Women's Voice

Independent Women Applauds House Introduction of Securing Critical Minerals Act

April 30, 2025

U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee
Chairman Guthrie
Ranking Member Pallone

Energy Subcommittee
Chairman Latta
Ranking Member Castor

Dear Chairmen Guthrie and Latta and Ranking Members Pallone and Castor:

On behalf of Independent Women, I strongly applaud the House of Representatives for introducing the **Securing America's Critical Minerals Supply Act** by Rep. John James (R-MI). Independent Women fights for women and their loved ones by effectively expanding support for policy solutions that aren't just well-intended but actually enhance people's freedom, opportunities, and well-being.

There's a growing demand for sourcing and refining critical minerals and rare earth elements (REE) here in the U.S. These essential components are necessary for computer chips, batteries, petroleum refining, defense capabilities, touchscreens, and other uses.

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has been globally dominating this industry since the **1990s**, now producing **60%** of global supply and processing **90%** of REE. Per the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) **Mineral Commodity Summaries** 2025 report, the U.S. "was 100% net import reliant for 12 of the 50 individually listed critical minerals" and "more than 50% net import reliant for an additional 28 critical mineral commodities." Therefore, China's continued dominance here would further undermine supply chains and threaten our national security interests.

For all these reasons, we urge Congress to work toward the swift passage of this legislation. Independent Women thanks Representative James for his leadership on this issue.

Respectfully,

Gabriella Hoffman
Director, Center for Energy and Conservation
Independent Women's Voice

GE VERNOVA

April 30, 2025

The Honorable Bob Latta
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Kathy Castor
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515

Dear Chairman Latta and Ranking Member Castor:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter ahead of your important hearing, "Assuring Abundant, Reliable American Energy to Power Innovation." We appreciate the opportunity to share our perspective and proudly set the record straight on GE Vernova's efforts to grow capacity for power and electrification equipment. Nothing is a higher priority to GE Vernova than manufacturing and delivering the equipment that powers the future—this is a focus of our entire company, from top leadership to the factory floor. As an example, we are investing $300 million in our U.S. gas turbine manufacturing operations—headquartered in Greenville, South Carolina—which is enabling us to continue taking gas turbine orders for 2028 deliveries. This investment allows us to increase capacity by 35% and deliver an additional 16 GW of gas turbine availability per year by 2028, almost double from today.

GE Vernova Is America's Energy Manufacturer

GE Vernova is the only U.S. headquartered energy manufacturer of advanced technology and cutting-edge equipment across all energy sources and the grid. In the U.S., GE Vernova employs over 18,000 workers, including in all 50 states and Puerto Rico with 18 major factories across the country and more than 70 domestic facilities. For power generation, we offer gas, nuclear, wind, steam and hydro power technologies. We also provide electrification equipment, solutions, and software that ensure grid reliability and resiliency, including solar and storage. Globally, our technology helps produce 33% of the world's electricity (excluding China), and 40% of the world's electricity flows through GE Vernova software. Our power generation equipment is deployed in more than 100 countries and equips 90% of transmission utilities worldwide. GE Vernova is actively involved in all segments of the U.S. and global energy sectors.

The U.S. Is Leading an Energy Supercycle

Thanks in significant part to the work of the Energy and Commerce Committee, growing electricity demand and its related opportunities have received well-deserved attention. After two decades of near-stagnant power demand, the North American Reliability Corporation's (NERC) 2024 Long-Term Reliability Assessment reported annual demand growth rates as double those of the last decade. Increasing demand growth is largely attributed to increased manufacturing, rapid proliferation of data centers and AI, the electrification of other sectors, new or expanding electricity uses, and energy security investments. Increasing dispatchable power and grid capacity in the near term will enable economic growth and enhance electricity system reliability, affordability, and security while creating jobs and advancing American competitiveness.

GE Vernova Is Growing Capacity for U.S. Competitiveness and Economic Prosperity
To succeed requires more than just electrons: we have to both build and innovate energy equipment and develop the workforce of the future. GE Vernova recognizes our unique suitability to meet surging demand for electricity and grid capacity. In February, we announced a $600 million investment in the expansion of GE Vernova's U.S. manufacturing base across gas, electrification systems, nuclear, onshore wind, and our Advanced Research Center (ARC). This investment will create more than 1,500 U.S. jobs and is only the beginning of a $9 billion global expenditure planned over the next four years. As mentioned above, part of this investment cycle includes $300 million to expand gas turbine manufacturing across eight U.S. facilities, increasing GE Vernova capacity by about 35% to help alleviate market constraints. We are also investing roughly $200 million across our nuclear, wind, and grid businesses, along with more than $100 million to the ARC for innovative technologies like direct air capture, the grid of the future, and critical infrastructure improvements.

Over the last several months, the top question we have received from customers, policymakers, and other interested stakeholders is how quickly GE Vernova can deliver the equipment to generate electricity to meet growing demand. We appreciate the opportunity to set the record straight.

Expanding U.S. Electricity Equipment Capacity
This discussion must start with dispatchable power, in which **gas** plays the leading role. Today, GE Vernova continues to take gas turbine orders for 2028 deliveries and is pursuing opportunities to build additional capacity to meet demand at the earliest moment.

Our gas turbine manufacturing headquarters in Greenville, South Carolina, along with our broader gas turbine supply chains, is continuing to build the world's most efficient gas turbines while onboarding hundreds of new factory workers, installing 500 new heavy-duty machines, and increasing production up to 80 gas turbines per year. This represents a potential of an additional 16 GW of gas turbine availability per year by 2028, almost a double from today.

Our **nuclear** energy business is working around the clock in Wilmington, North Carolina, to accelerate the delivery of the BWRX-300, the only U.S. owned and designed Small Modular Reactor (SMR) technology ready for deployment today. The BWRX-300 is also the only active deployment of a western nuclear reactor underway, and its deployment will enable us to bring another critical tool toward achieving affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy while advancing competitiveness and innovation.

Beyond dispatchable power, **renewables** are important for fast construction, installation, and deployment of electrons in an environment when the grid needs power as soon as possible. We are proud that our wind manufacturing facilities in Grand Forks, North Dakota; Pensacola, Florida; and, Schenectady, New York—alongside our 3,000 U.S. wind employees and 30,000-worker U.S. supply chain—are also playing a role in securing American electricity.

GE VERNOVA

Beyond power generation, the U.S. also needs **switchgear, transformers, and other critical grid equipment** to deliver reliable, affordable, and safe power. Our facilities in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Charleroi, Pennsylvania; and Clearwater, Florida, are ramping up manufacturing capacity to alleviate the constraints of the U.S.'s aging grid infrastructure.

The Opportunity for the Public Sector to Partner to Further Expand U.S. Capacity

GE Vernova is addressing capacity and demand challenges with relentless optimism and a get-it-done attitude, and we believe policy can complement our efforts to grow capacity. This includes policies to address the regulatory and institutional bottlenecks that hamstring power, transmission, and distribution technology deployment. Additionally, government partnerships often help raise the conviction for new investments in manufacturing, which are critical to meeting demand. To more quickly grow even more capacity to serve the U.S. and the world, there are policy opportunities to incentivize near-term investments in power generation or grid capacity expansion and reinforce the U.S. industrial base.

For example, utilizing the Defense Production Act (DPA) Title III authorities can provide incentives and market certainty to address manufacturing capacity. Supporting domestic production capacity investments through grants, subsidies, or purchase agreements could help drive investments in the U.S., accelerate investment decisions, mitigate production and commercial risks, and strengthen domestic supply chains for critical power and grid components and technologies.

Bolstering U.S. manufacturing across key energy and electricity equipment can also increase American competitiveness across the globe while advancing geopolitics and addressing trade deficits. In many cases, GE Vernova is the American energy company at the global table, and we are proud to deliver American technology and design for global power and grid equipment demand. The more GE Vernova exports overseas, the closer we are to solving trade imbalances. We stand ready to work with Congress and the Administration to achieve American-made success across the U.S. and the globe.

We are grateful for your leadership and partnership, and we look forward to continued synergy and collaboration with you, your staff, the Committee, and other government and industry partners. We hope to be of service to you and the Committee at any time.

Sincerely,

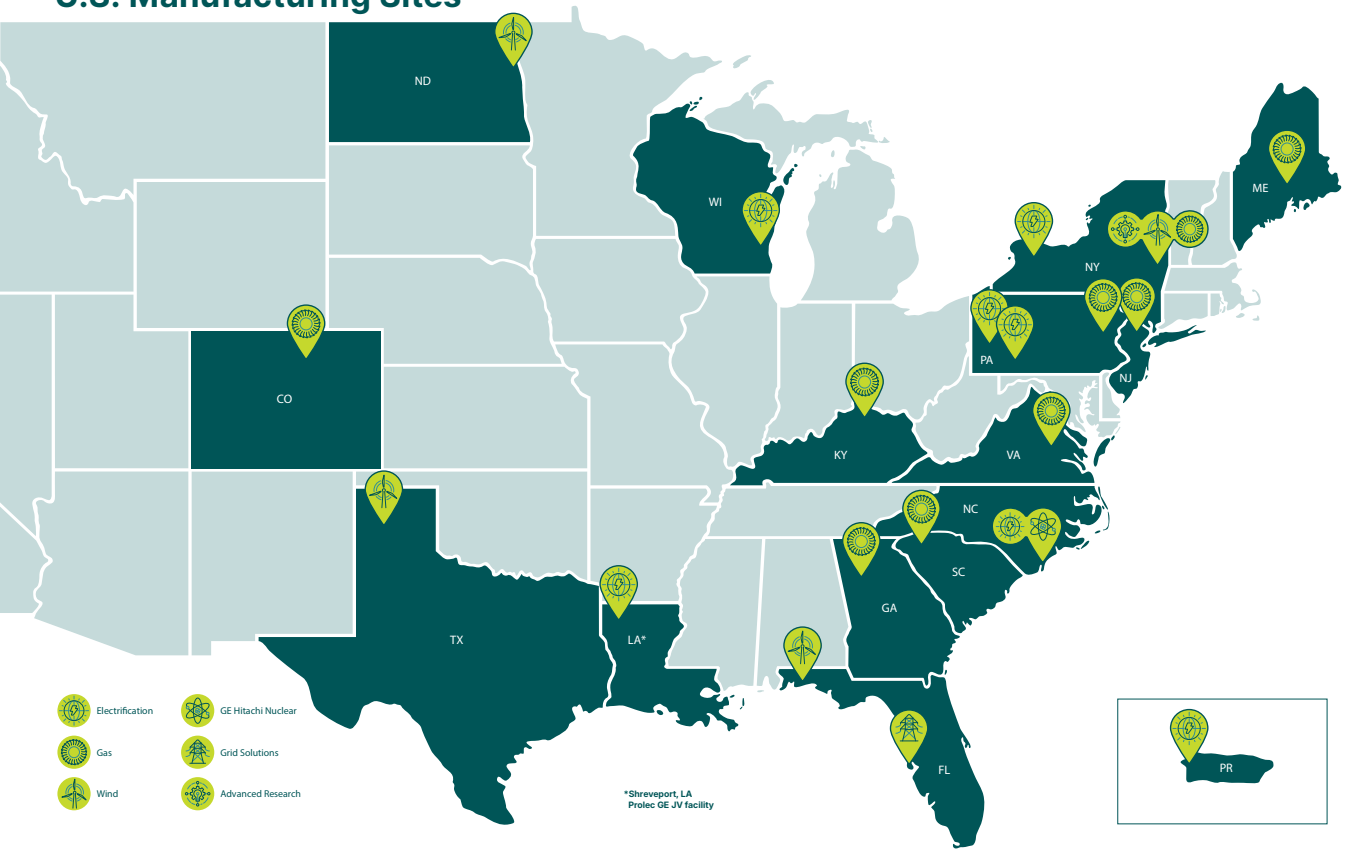
The Honorable Roger Martella
Chief Corporate Officer
GE Vernova

U.S. MANUFACTURING AND THE WORKERS TO MEET GROWING ENERGY DEMAND

With worldwide energy needs forecasted to double, we are investing nearly **$600 million** in our **U.S. factories and research facilities** to help meet the surging electricity demands around the world. The new investments are expected to create more than **1,500 new U.S. jobs** and will drive **U.S. energy affordability, national security, and competitiveness,** while enabling the American manufacturing footprint needed to support expanding global exports.

GE VERNOVA

U.S. Manufacturing Sites



RECENTLY ANNOUNCED INVESTMENTS FOR 2025-26+

$600M

Recently announced **~$600 million** in investments and **>1,500 new jobs** at U.S. manufacturing and research facilities

~$300M

in support of our Gas Power business at 8 locations, including Allentown, PA, Bangor, ME, Chamblee, GA, and Greenville, SC. **850+ new jobs**

>$100M

at our Advanced Research Center in Niskayuna, NY, for innovative tech including direct air capture, the grid of the future, critical infrastructure security

~$100M

in Pensacola, FL, Grand Forks, ND, Amarillo, TX, and Schenectady, NY, to strengthen U.S. wind supply chain

>$50M

in Wilmington, NC, to support next generation nuclear fuel design for our BWRX-300 small modular reactor

>$30M

in Pittsburgh, PA; Charleroi, PA; and Clearwater, FL, to strengthen the grid and energy storage. **500+ new jobs**

$9B

investment in cumulative capex and R&D innovations across gas, nuclear, grid and wind planned through 2028

CONTACT Roger Martella, Chief Corporate Officer
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Williams

WE MAKE CLEAN ENERGY HAPPEN®

April 30, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie, Chair
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone:

We commend House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair Brett Guthrie and Energy Subcommittee Chair Bob Latta for holding this Hearing, "Assuring Abundant, Reliable American Energy to Power Innovation" and for discussion of several legislative proposals including the "Promoting Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act of 2025."

As a trusted energy industry leader, Williams is committed to safely, reliably, and responsibly meeting the nation's growing energy demand using our domestic supply of abundant and reliable energy. We use our 33,000-mile pipeline infrastructure to move a third of the nation's natural gas, each day, to where it is needed most to generate reliable, low-carbon energy used to heat our homes and cook our food.

If Congress wants to reduce Americans' energy costs, win the Artificial Intelligence (AI) race against China, and make America energy dominant, it must enact durable permitting reforms for interstate pipelines. While construction of a pipeline crossing multiple states may take just six-to-nine months, permitting and regulatory hurdles can delay projects for years. These delays are largely driven by overlapping permitting requirements, poor coordination among federal and state agencies, insufficient standards for judicial review, and the weaponization and abuse of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Congress can provide meaningful, long-term regulatory relief by clarifying the evidentiary threshold required for federal authorizations, thereby enhancing their durability, and by bringing Section 401 under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) jurisdiction. FERC already incorporates water quality considerations into its analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), so bringing Section 401 within FERC's purview would create efficiencies and prevent any one state from obstructing interstate commerce. Additionally, imposing a 'clear and convincing' evidence threshold for challenges to federal authorizations would reinforce the integrity of energy infrastructure against overly expansive or ambiguous provisions within NEPA that have historically led to extensive litigation, diverting federal and industry resources without producing meaningful environmental benefits.

Abuse of Clean Water Act 401 Certifications

Currently, a single activist state can block a proposed interstate natural gas project, regardless of the benefits it would bring, through the weaponization of the federally delegated Clean Water Act's Section 401 authority and review process.

Although Section 401 was intended to protect water quality, it is increasingly used as a tool to stall or derail projects based on political considerations unrelated to environmental concerns.

These interventions often occur after years of regulatory compliance and substantial financial commitment, leading to prolonged legal battles and heightened uncertainty. State Section 401 denials have been directed almost exclusively against pipeline projects FERC has already determined are in the public interest and do not, based on its NEPA review, have significant water quality impacts that should prevent the project from moving forward.

Notably, project applicants are already required to supply FERC with thorough analyses of their project's impacts and FERC extensively considers the impacts that projects may have on water bodies and quality. An applicant may propose mitigation measures and FERC may also impose mitigation conditions.

Despite this thorough and extensive process, States that politically oppose pipelines do not participate in the FERC-led NEPA process and instead use their federally delegated CWA Section 401 authority to veto and block multi-state projects. This is not how Congress intended the CWA to function, and this misuse undermines FERC's exclusive authority to oversee interstate pipeline routes and effectively grants states a unilateral veto—even in cases where any potential discharges into navigable waters are minimal or manageable.

From 2013-2021, costly and legal regulatory challenges and the inability to obtain state water quality certifications have resulted in over 40,000 lost jobs (including union jobs) and $11.23 billion in lost investment.

The near impossibility of completing new pipeline projects into populated urban areas like Boston or New York means that people in need of affordable energy are paying the most – despite the abundance and low-cost supply of clean, U.S. produced natural gas. Currently, natural gas demand in New England averages 10 Bcf/day, with winter peaks reaching 20.8 Bcf/day. The existing natural gas delivery network is simply not enough to handle these spikes.[i]

Policies and regulations aimed at stopping natural gas infrastructure have resulted in the cancellation of several pipeline projects, including Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP), PennEast, Constitution, Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE), Mountain Valley Pipeline and Northern Access. These cancellations and delays have deprived Americans access to natural gas from producing regions (i.e., the Marcellus/Utica basins in Pennsylvania). Notably, the Northeast's restrictions on pipelines combined with permitting challenges continue to cause the region (i.e., New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts) to rely on burning expensive coal and high-emitting heating oil and/or importing foreign energy. Heating oil has significantly higher emissions than natural gas; states should support the permitting and building of the interstate pipelines needed to deliver clean, affordable natural gas, rather than importing energy from overseas.

"Promoting Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act of 2025"
The legislation "Promoting Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act of 2025" takes a critical step toward modernizing the federal permitting process by designating FERC as the lead agency for coordinating environmental reviews under NEPA. To fully realize the legislation's goals of streamlining approvals, enhancing regulatory certainty, and strengthening energy security, the bill should include language to bring state water quality reviews under FERC's coordinated framework under the Natural Gas Act (NGA).

FERC already considers water quality issues as a part of its NEPA analysis, so bringing CWA 401 within FERC would create efficiencies and prevent any one state from obstructing interstate commerce. Including language in "Promoting Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act of 2025" to designate FERC as the lead on water quality reviews aligns with the intent of the legislation. It ensures that state voices are heard, environmental protections are preserved, and the risk of duplicative or obstructive reviews is reduced.

It is appropriate to address this issue under the NGA because it pertains to a single, well-defined sector – interstate natural gas infrastructure – that is already extensively regulated under the NGA. The NGA expressly incorporates a role for state participation and oversight. Designating FERC as the lead on water quality reviews offers the most achievable and effective path to meaningful permitting reform that is fully aligned with existing regulatory frameworks and designed to deliver a durable, streamlined regulatory process.

Incorporating water quality reviews into the FERC-led NEPA process delivers regulatory certainty, while safeguarding water quality. States would retain the ability to propose conditions to protect their water resources and FERC can include necessary conditions as part of a comprehensive process. Importantly, as a pipeline is constructed, it remains fully subject to the CWA, along with other federal environmental statutes, and state and local laws throughout its operation.

The need for new natural gas infrastructure is urgent. Growing demand, regional constraints, and energy affordability all point to the necessity of reliable and timely pipeline development.

Though Section 401 economic blockades have largely focused on fossil fuel projects, interstate transmission lines, hydrogen pipelines, carbon dioxide pipelines, and other infrastructure necessary to implement technology-based climate strategies will also face obstacles from the politicization of Section 401. The main difference will be the types of projects in the crosshairs and the political affiliations of the state officials leading the obstruction.

Without these key provisions, future natural gas pipelines remain vulnerable to delays or cancellations.

Williams is a Committed Partner in Our Nation's Leadership Toward a Lower-Carbon Future
With its abundant natural gas supplies, the United States is perfectly positioned to move to a lower-carbon future that meets growing energy demands from electrification, data centers, AI, and onshoring manufacturing. Reforms to federal permitting and review processes will help us realize this future.

Williams appreciates the bipartisan and committed efforts of this Committee to further these policies for the benefit of the American people. We stand ready to be a resource and constructive, solutions-oriented partner.

Sincerely,

THE WILLIAMS COMPANIES, INC.

T. Lane Wilson
Sr. Vice President and General Counsel

[i] https://www.globalenergyinstitute.org/sites/default/files/2019-07/20170405_1300_PipelineReport-update.pdf

Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA)
The Voice of the Industrial Energy Consumers

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Telephone (202) 223-1420 • www.ieca-us.org

April 24, 2025

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Manufacturers Oppose H.R. 1949, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025

Dear Chairman Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of our member companies, the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA) strongly oppose H.R. 1949, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025. H.R. 1949 is anti-consumer and inconsistent with the intent of Congress to deliver affordable and reliable natural gas and electricity. The stakes are high. For every one dollar increase in the Henry Hub natural gas price, consumers pay on average $34 billion more for natural gas and $20 billion more for electricity, or $54 billion annually.[1] One hundred percent of our member companies are from the manufacturing sector.

First, H.R. 1949 removes the long-standing Natural Gas Act (NGA) consumer protection provision that requires the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to evaluate whether applications to export to non-free trade agreement (NFTA) countries are inconsistent with the public interest. Approximately 80 percent of all LNG exports are to NFTA countries. Under this provision, the DOE is required to evaluate, among other things, whether an application to export to NFTA countries impacts the public interest, which includes impacts to domestic prices of natural gas, electricity, and reliability. H.R. 1949 eliminates DOE authority and oversight and gives FERC an exclusive authority and mandates that FERC "shall deem the exportation and importation of natural gas to be consistent with the public interest."

[1] Natural Gas, U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), https://www.eia.gov/naturalgas/

Second, the DOE has already approved very significant volumes to NFTA countries, which equals 57.9 percent of 2024 net supply.[2] The Energy Information Administration (EIA) forecasts LNG exports to increase 92 percent by 2027 (see Figure 1). For perspective, the U.S. only exports 10 percent of its gasoline. For crude oil we export 1,504,021 thousand barrels annually, while importing 2,411,293 thousand barrels, for a net import of 18.8 percent of production.[3]

Third, LNG customers are countries who will pay any price to keep the lights on in their country. They are insensitive to price. No matter how high U.S. prices will go, they will buy away our natural gas even when our winter inventories fall and prices rise. The LNG 20-year contracts shift supply and price risk from LNG buying countries to U.S. consumers and the economy. No U.S. entity has 20-year contracts, not even electric utilities.

Fourth, EIA data proves that LNG export volumes are highest during our winter peak heating season months of November through February, which accelerates a reduction in U.S. inventory, increasing the prices of U.S. natural gas and electricity and reducing reliability. The severity of the problem increases as export capacity increases (see Figure 2).

As manufacturers who compete with China and are price sensitive, Chinese company LNG contracts represent 36.8 percent of U.S. LNG operating capacity.[4] We believe that U.S. consumers should be a priority over LNG customers, but LNG contracts flip the priority.

We need Congress to protect U.S. consumers and the economy – not LNG exports. We ask that you oppose H.R. 1949 and urge the DOE to implement a policy to insulate U.S. consumers from the impacts of LNG exports. IECA has proposed the "America First LNG Inventory Policy" as a policy solution.[5]

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio
Paul N. Cicio

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[2] Summary of LNG Export Applications of the Lower 48 States, U.S. Department of Energy, https://www.energy.gov/fecm/articles/summary-lng-export-applications-lower-48-states
[3] Petroleum & Other Liquids, U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), https://www.eia.gov/petroleum/
[4] China LNG Contracts with U.S., https://www.ieca-us.org/wp-content/uploads/11.13.24_China-US-LNG-Contracts.pdf
[5] America First LNG Inventory Policy, Industrial Energy Consumers of America, https://www.ieca-us.org/wp-content/uploads/04.22.25_LNG-Inventory-Policy-to-Insulate-the-US-Market-from-LNG-Export-Impacts_FINAL.pdf

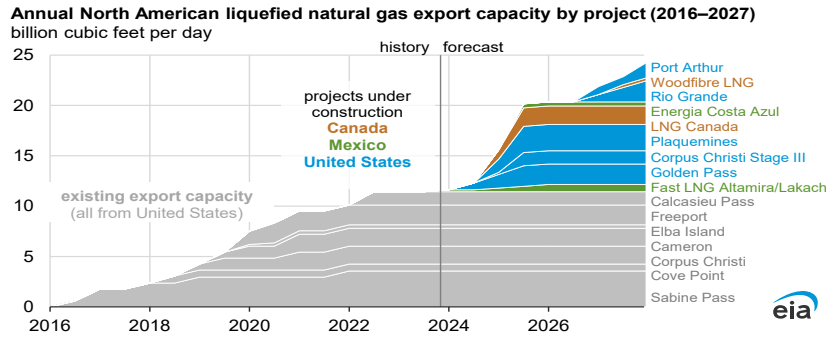
President & CEO

cc: House Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with $1.3 trillion in annual sales, over 12,000 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.9 million employees. One hundred percent of IECA members are manufacturing companies whose competitiveness is largely determined by the cost and reliability of natural gas and electricity. IECA's sole mission is to reduce and avoid energy costs and increase energy reliability through advocacy in Congress and regulatory agencies, such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including chemicals, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, consumer goods, building products, automotive, independent oil refining, and cement.

Figure 1

LNG Exports Increase 92% by 2027

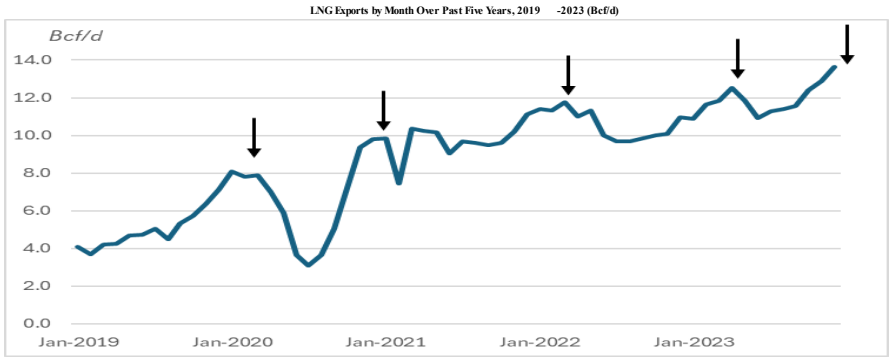


Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA)
The Energy Voice of Industrial Energy Consumers

7

Figure 2

LNG Exports are Highest During Winter Months Which Increases Natural Gas and Electricity Prices (EIA)



Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA)
The Energy Voice of Industrial Energy Consumers

5

April 30th, 2025

Dear Representatives:

In advance of House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy's hearing "Assuring Abundant, Reliable American Energy to Power Innovation," on behalf of our millions of members and supporters, the undersigned write to express our **opposition to H.R. 1949, Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025, and any related measures that would accelerate the expansion of liquefied methane gas (otherwise known as liquefied natural gas, or LNG) exports.** The facts are clear, expanded LNG exports perpetuate the climate crisis, raise costs for consumers, and harm communities.

This legislation would strip away the federal government's ability and responsibility to examine the full impacts of LNG expansion on the economy, consumer energy costs, the climate, and local communities. LNG exports negatively impact Americans by exacerbating climate change, perpetuating environmental injustices, and raising energy prices for households, small businesses, and manufacturers. These impacts must be taken into account when DOE decides whether to approve future LNG export authorizations. This provision, however, would remove DOE's legal obligation to assess whether LNG exports are in the public interest and their impact on everyday Americans and the U.S. economy.

Rather than passing legislation that invests in a clean economy, reduces energy costs for families and small businesses, and ensures approved energy projects must be truly in the public interest, the House Majority is instead using valuable committee time to consider additional giveaways to the fossil fuel industry. Following unprecedented growth in LNG exports in recent years, the fossil fuel industry is already raking in record profits at the expense of consumers and future generations, yet their allies in Congress are putting forward legislation to lock us into ever-increasing gas extraction, higher and more volatile energy prices, and devastating environmental, health, safety, and climate impacts – particularly impacting frontline communities. H.R. 1949 would revoke DOE's ability to ensure that new LNG exports do not raise costs to U.S. consumers, accelerate the climate crisis, or jeopardize the health and safety of communities living alongside fossil fuel infrastructure. The legislation is a dangerous handout to the oil and gas industry that would expedite the approval of LNG exports by removing the first three sections of the Natural Gas Act, which require a public interest determination for LNG exports to countries with whom the United States does not have an existing free trade agreement. Instead of requiring a rigorous review process consistent with good governance practices, this provision directs the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to deem gas exports in the public interest without requiring any consideration of impacts on the American public.

Among other considerations, it is critical that LNG export decisions take lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions into account. There are eight operating LNG export facilities and over 30 additional projects proposed or under construction, the full buildout of which would be equivalent to the annual climate pollution from 920 coal plants or 814 million gasoline-powered cars. In every scenario

modeled by the DOE in its 2024 studies, additional LNG exports increase global methane pollution and LNG exports would displace more renewables than coal globally. This jeopardizes the commitments of countries receiving imports of LNG, and would lock in decades of highly polluting fossil fuels when cleaner, cheaper alternatives exist. The proposed language would undermine the federal government's ability to even consider these consequences or the findings of the most recent studies from the DOE on the impacts of LNG exports when deciding whether a project should be approved.

The expansion of LNG exports is also a glaring environmental injustice. Sited primarily in low-income communities and communities of color along the Gulf Coast, existing and proposed LNG export facilities are already increasing toxic pollution in areas overburdened by industrial pollution from the fossil fuel industry. This buildout has decimated tourism and local industries like fishing and shrimping, which would only be made worse by approving more LNG export projects. It is critical that the Department of Energy take these considerations, along with the increasing impacts of climate change, into account when making its public interest determination.

Consumers across the U.S. are suffering from rising energy costs exacerbated by LNG exports. Skyrocketing energy costs can be traced to increases in LNG exports, as can increases in prices of consumer goods. DOE found that additional LNG exports would increase domestic wholesale natural gas prices by more than 30 percent, raising consumer prices as a result. A new report released by the Center for Energy and Environmental Analysis (CEEA) found that despite record levels of US natural gas production in the first quarter of 2025, US natural gas prices have more than doubled since President Trump was elected. These cost increases disproportionately burden people of color and low-income or otherwise disadvantaged communities and households. It is imperative that federal agencies retain the authority to consider domestic consumer impacts when determining whether additional exports are in the public interest.

We write to urge the rejection of any efforts to weaken laws and regulations that protect Americans from the negative impacts of LNG exports. We hope that you will join us in opposing this legislation.

Sincerely,

350.org
Action for the Climate Emergency
Alaska Wilderness League
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments
Berks Gas Truth
Better Brazoria: Clean Air & Water
Better Path Coalition
Black Millennials 4 Flint
Bold Alliance
Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas

Catskill Mountainkeeper
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Coal Field Justice
Center for Oil and Gas Organizing
Chesapeake Climate Action Network AF
Chispa Texas
Clean Water Action
Climate Action Campaign
Climate Code Blue
Climate Conversation Brazoria County
Climate Equity Policy Center
Climate Hawks Vote
Commission Shift
Common Defense
Cook Inletkeeper
Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Earth Action Inc
Earth Ethics, Inc.
Earthjustice
Earthworks
Environmental Protection Network
Evergreen Action
Food & Water Watch
For a Better Bayou
FracTracker Alliance
FreshWater Accountability Project
Friends of the Earth
Green America
GreenLatinos
Greenpeace USA
Habitat Recovery Project
Healthy Gulf
Hip Hop Caucus
Ingleside on the Bay Coastal Watch Association
Interfaith Power & Light
Justice Is Global
League of Conservation Voters
Louisiana Bucket Brigade
Maine Conservation Voters
Make Polluters Pay
Natural Resources Defense Council

New Energy Economy
No False Climate Solutions PA
North Carolina League of Conservation Voters
Nuclear Information and Resource Service
Ocean Defense Initiative
Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund
Oil Change International
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Oxfam America
Pacific Environment
Physicians for Social Responsibility National
Port Arthur Community Action Network (PACAN)
Private Equity Stakeholder Project
Progress Texas
Property Rights and Pipeline Center
Public Accountability Initiative/LittleSis
Public Citizen
Rise to Thrive
Save RGV
Science and Environmental Health Network
Sierra Blanca Legal Defense Fund
Sierra Club
Silvix Resources
Society of Native Nations
Southern Environmental Law Center
SouthWings
Sunrise New Orleans
Texas Campaign for the Environment
The Conservation Angler
Three Rivers Waterkeeper
Third Act
Turtle Island Restoration Network
Union of Concerned Scientists
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
Vessel Project of Louisiana
Waterkeeper Alliance
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
Zero Hour

Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director
okeefe@americanwhitewater.org
3537 NE 87th St
Seattle, WA 98115
425.417.9012

April 30, 2025

Bob Latta, Chairman
Kathy Castor, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy
Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Hydropower Relicensing Transparency Act

Dear Chairman Latta and Ranking Member Castor:

I am writing on behalf of American Whitewater and our interest in the Hydropower Relicensing Transparency Act. We support the publication of an annual Annual Relicensing Status Report and believe all parties engaged in hydropower licensing would benefit from a comprehensive assessment of the status of hydropower licensing proceedings. We respectfully offer the following comments and recommendations for improving the legislation.

American Whitewater is a national non-profit 501(c)(3) river conservation organization founded in 1954 with approximately 50,000 supporters, 7,000 dues-paying members, and 100 local-based affiliate clubs, representing whitewater enthusiasts across the nation. American Whitewater's mission is to protect and restore America's whitewater rivers and to enhance opportunities to enjoy them safely. As the leading advocate for the protection of whitewater rivers nationwide, we connect the interests of human-powered river recreation with science-based environmental stewardship. For more than three decades, American Whitewater has participated in more hydropower licensing proceedings than any other organization in the United States. We are currently actively engaged in dozens of such proceedings across the country.

American Whitewater supports the legislation before the Committee but has specific recommendations to enhance its effectiveness. Section 2 would amend the Federal Power Act to add a requirement for an Annual Relicensing Status Report. The report would include the "ongoing or completed actions required of the Commission, the fish and wildlife agencies referred to in subsection (b) of this section, and any other agencies." Notably absent from this list is the ongoing or completed actions of licensees and we recommend that they be explicitly

included. In many cases the licensee may be completing studies required for agency analysis or convening participants in the licensing proceeding for settlement discussions. Including these actions is essential to providing a full and accurate account of the status of each licensing proceeding.

American Whitewater also has specific concerns regarding the capacity of fish and wildlife agencies that play a vital role in hydropower licensing—particularly under Sections 4(e), 10(j), and 18 of the Federal Power Act. We are currently observing a troubling decline in workforce capacity and the loss of seasoned staff with decades of institutional knowledge. These losses have resulted in significant inefficiencies in the licensing process. We urge the Committee to recognize and explicitly address this issue in any reporting requirement related to the status of relicensing proceedings.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for this important legislation and to provide recommendations we hope you will consider during the committee's deliberations. As an active participant in many individual licensing proceedings, American Whitewater welcomes the opportunity to engage further in the development of a framework to develop a truly comprehensive status report.

Sincerely,

Thomas O'Keefe, PhD
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director

April 14, 2025

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Preserving the DOE Loan Programs Office as a Pillar of American Energy Dominance

Dear Secretary Wright:

As leaders in American industry, finance, and public policy, we write to express our strong support for the Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office (LPO) and to underscore its importance to the administration's economic and energy priorities.

For nearly two decades, LPO has served as a vital source of patient, long-term capital for domestic energy projects that advance U.S. strategic and economic interests. Today, LPO continues to play a critical role in financing infrastructure that enables new nuclear power development, revitalizes domestic mineral production, and modernizes both grid and gas systems—all central to the administration's goals of lowering energy costs, reshoring manufacturing, and achieving energy dominance.

As budget and staffing decisions are weighed across the Department, we encourage the administration to ensure LPO remains fully equipped to carry out its mission. The office's ability to underwrite and monitor large-scale energy projects depends on specialized technical staff and institutional capacity. Without them, the federal government risks slowing or stalling the diverse mix of energy projects that serve national priorities, such as new nuclear energy development for powering AI data centers—undermining investment certainty and weakening American competitiveness.

LPO-financed projects are not speculative—they are commercial-scale infrastructure efforts that reduce electricity costs, bolster domestic production, and rebuild American industry. Recent examples include:

- A long-standing loan for **Plant Vogtle's AP1000 reactors**—the only new nuclear construction in the country—supported under the first Trump Administration.

- A **$2.26 billion loan to Lithium Americas** for the Thacker Pass project in Nevada—set to become one of the world's largest lithium mines, helping secure U.S. supply chains and reduce dependence on China.

- A **$1.56 billion loan guarantee to Holtec** to restart the Palisades Nuclear Plant in Michigan—the first nuclear restart in U.S. history, returning 800 MW of reliable baseload to the grid.

- A **$1.81 billion commitment to Arizona Public Service** for transmission upgrades, solar deployment, and battery storage—strengthening the grid and reducing peak electricity prices.

- A **$1.64 billion commitment to DTE Gas** in Michigan for distribution system upgrades that enhance reliability and support low-cost natural gas service to households and industry.

- An up to **$4.9 billion conditional commitment** to the Grain Belt Express project, which will build a new 2500 MW transmission line connecting three regional grids. The project will enhance grid capacity to meet rapidly growing electricity demand from data centers and manufacturing.

- A **$1.44 billion loan guarantee** to Montana Renewables, LLC for expanding synthetic aviation fuel (SAF) production—positioning it to become one of the world's largest SAF producers with capacity of 300 million gallons annually, strengthening America's leadership in SAF and supporting regional agricultural development.

These are precisely the kinds of projects the administration has championed: American-made, job-creating, pro-growth, and foundational to national strength and security.

We respectfully urge you to preserve LPO's robust financing capabilities. As your administration advances its energy and industrial agenda, maintaining the Loan Programs Office will be critical to delivering results.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to American energy excellence.

Sincerely,

Oklo Inc.	**Data Center Coalition**	**Nuclear Energy Institute**
New American Industrial Alliance	**Invenergy**	**Clean Energy Buyers Association**

Chris Barnard
President
American Conservation Coalition

Thomas Hochman
Director of Infrastructure Policy
Foundation for American Innovation

Abigail Ball
Executive Director
American Compass

Direct Air Capture Coalition

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)

Energy Northwest

Solugen Inc.

World Energy

Velocys Inc.

Charles Oppenheimer
Executive Director
Oppenheimer Project

Arnab Datta
Managing Director of Policy Implementation
Employ America

Paris Ortiz-Wines
Director
Stand Up for Nuclear

Nuclear Innovation Alliance

Zanskar Geothermal and Minerals

Institute for Progress

Heirloom Carbon

Exodys Energy

Zero6 Energy Inc.

Arcadia eFuels

Center for Climate and Energy Solutions

Twelve

Breakthrough Institute

Generation Atomic

Colorado Nuclear Alliance

Nuclear New York

Third Way

Native Nuclear

Mothers for Nuclear

April 29, 2025

Dear Chair Guthrie, Chair Latta, Ranking Member Pallone, and Ranking Member Castor,

On behalf of the Natural Resources Defense Council and our more than 3 million members and online activists, we write in response to the hearing of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy, titled "Assuring Abundant, Reliable American Energy to Power Innovation." Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on this important topic.

We wholeheartedly agree with Chairs Latta and Guthrie that "Our nation is at an energy crossroads. It's clear that securing our electric grid and powering AI will require abundant and reliable energy for decades to come." In addition to AI and data centers, onshoring of manufacturing and increased electrification are leading to rapidly growing electricity demand. Add to this an aging power grid, increasing extreme weather, and a changing power supply, and it is clear that we must reform the ways that we plan, build, and operate the power grid to ensure reliable, affordable, and secure energy for Americans.

Unfortunately, most of the bills to be discussed at today's hearing would do just the opposite. These bills arbitrarily advantage fossil fuel generation, even when it is not the most reliable or affordable option, exacerbate climate change, and cause electric bills to skyrocket. Several bills also introduce unnecessary bureaucracy and paperwork, slowing down the very processes we need to speed up to build energy infrastructure – or to address climate change. At the same time, these bills reduce the opportunities for people to weigh in on energy projects in their backyards and abdicate the government's responsibility to ensure that new and existing energy infrastructure is in Americans' public interest. Rather than ushering in an era of abundant power, these bills are likely to keep old, polluting, expensive fossil fuel plants online while stymying development and innovation.

Instead of focusing on last-ditch efforts to save the energy sources of the past, Congress should be tackling the problems of the future. We need creative solutions to ensure that clean, cheap power can be constructed at the scale and speed needed – lowering electric bills, improving public health, and reducing our climate impact. We need policies that better plan and build long-distance transmission, so that we can move energy in a way that meets load growth challenges with lowest cost and greatest benefit. And we need to address backlogged interconnection queues once and for all. These are the innovative solutions that will lead to abundant, reliable American energy to power innovation, and we are eager to collaborate with the Committee to address the barriers to meeting these goals.

In this letter, first we discuss some of the specific legislation included in the hearing notice. Then we lay out the case for why the solutions for reliable, affordable, and abundant power can – and should be – the same ones that will lead to cleaner air and a healthier environment.

PART I: DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION[1]

Reliable Power Act

This bill requires the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to review any new federal agency regulation that could impact the reliability of the electric grid. It requires the Electric Reliability Organization (i.e., the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, or NERC) to perform an annual long-term assessment, focused specifically on "non-intermittent, dispatchable generation." If NERC finds that there is an "inadequacy" of non-intermittent, dispatchable generation, NERC must notify FERC, who must review all new "covered agency actions," particularly those promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Energy (DOE) (e.g., emissions regulations affecting power plants). FERC and NERC must comment on all such agency actions, and a federal agency cannot finalize such regulations until FERC deems that they are not likely to "have a significant impact on the state of generation adequacy or the reliability of the bulk power system."

The "Reliable Power Act" ignores the unquestioned reliability value of renewable energy and energy storage, arbitrarily advantages fossil fuels, creates unnecessary bureaucratic delay, and likely will raise costs and pollution across the country. Grid regions are already equipped to fairly evaluate the reliability of *all* resources and have maintained reliability for nearly a century as the resource mix has undergone significant transitions, including the transition to cleaner energy. But this bill weaponizes "reliability" to block policies that would reduce pollution or speed the transition to clean energy, potentially allowing fossil fuel interests to veto well-researched agency rules. By requiring long-term assessments of "non-intermittent, dispatchable generation" (i.e., fossil fuel plants), the bill could entrench coal and gas, even when cheaper, cleaner, more reliable alternatives are available. It ignores the role that modern grid solutions—like storage, demand response, and regional and interregional coordination—can play to provide reliability at a lower price and with fewer emissions. Finally, this bill would impose duplicative review requirements, likely slowing down urgent rulemakings and straining already over-stretched government employees.

HR 1047, GRID Power Act

This bill requires FERC to promulgate a rule within 180 days authorizing transmission providers (i.e. public utilities, Independent System Operators (ISOs) and Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs)) to prioritize certain "dispatchable power projects" in the interconnection queue if they "improve grid reliability and resource adequacy."

The" Grid Power Act" could actually *jeopardize* reliability by disadvantaging the very resources that can be built most quickly. Clean energy resources and battery storage, which make up nearly 95% of the resources in the nation's interconnection queues, are the fastest to construct. For example, building battery storage takes an average of 20-30 months, whereas gas plants generally take 40-50 months and could take over five years given the gas turbine shortage.

To address mounting load growth and keep the United States at the cutting edge of manufacturing and AI development, the nation needs new capacity as fast as possible – but allowing gas power plants to skip over renewables and storage in the queue would only cause delays in getting new capacity online and improving resource adequacy. Furthermore, queue jumping harms resources already in the interconnection queue by using up cheaper transmission headroom, forcing queued resources to pay a premium for upgrades to the grid after they are cut in line. These network upgrades can cost millions of dollars and can force projects to drop out of the queue, leading to further delays and higher costs.

As in the "Reliable Power Act," this bill is an effort to arbitrarily tip the cards in favor of the fossil fuel industry and flies in the face of long held standard of open access to the transmission system. It also distracts from fixing the real problems: the slow speed of interconnection queues, which are delaying all types of resources from coming online more quickly and building enough transmission to ensure that there is space on the grid for these resources to connect. Existing generation plus the 2.6TW in interconnection queues as of 2024 is more than enough energy to power America's future. If transmission providers, FERC, and Congress are serious about solving resource adequacy challenges, they should focus on building more transmission and speeding up interconnection. Full implementation of FERC Order 2023 is an important first step, but more can be done, as will be discussed with respect to the "Expediting Generator Interconnection Procedures Act of 2025" later in this letter.

Power Plant Reliability Act of 2025

This bill requires power generators to give 5 years notice to FERC, NERC, and "affected" state commissions or transmission organizations before retiring. It also allows any state, transmission organization, or NERC to file a complaint with FERC that "any interstate service of any public utility is inadequate or insufficient" or will likely become so in 5 years. Then, FERC can require an electric generator that would otherwise retire to continue operating and can require a state or public utility to pay the generation owner for keeping the plant running.

The "Power Plant Reliability Act of 2025" could lock in unnecessary fossil generation for years, causing consumers to pay billions in extra costs and leading to significant additional climate and local pollution. By requiring states or utilities to pay an electric generation owner, this bill would be a massive expansion of FERC authority. It does not specify criteria or guardrails regarding *who* pays to keep a generator online, which could lead to consumers paying millions for a power plant to stay online even if it does not benefit them – and could be weaponized by a politicized FERC. The bill also ignores that DOE already has authority under Federal Power Act Section 202(c) to prevent generators from retiring if doing so would cause reliability problems.

This bill would also lead to more expensive and *less* reliable power. It requires NERC/states to file reliability complaints *five years* before a generator retires, when there is insufficient information to predict whether that retirement will violate a reliability standard. It also presupposes that the best solution to that potential violation is to leave the generator online

rather than, for example, replacing it with more efficient resources. This could raise electricity prices by keeping expensive power plants online rather than building new, cheaper ones. It could also chill new investment in generation, making it harder to keep up with load growth and threatening reliability.

Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025

This bill gives FERC sole authority to authorize imports and exports of natural gas and liquefied natural gas (LNG), removing the important role the Department of Energy (DOE) plays in analyzing whether these imports/exports are in the public interest of the American people. Furthermore, it *compels* FERC to find that these imports or exports are in the public interest, wholly removing the federal government's responsibility to weigh the costs and benefits of approving additional gas exports. At a time when domestic energy demand and energy reliability concerns are rapidly rising – the subject of this very hearing – removing laws meant to protect American consumers is particularly ill-advised.

As made abundantly clear in DOE's December 2024 updated LNG export study, continuing to approve LNG exports would impose a triple cost on U.S. households: raising gas prices, electricity prices, and prices of manufactured goods. The study also found that, under any scenario, increased LNG exports would increase climate-warming emissions given the large methane and carbon dioxide emissions emitted during the entire LNG lifecycle: fracking, pipeline transport, liquefaction, overseas shipping, and combustion. What's more, the gas liquefaction process releases cancer-causing chemicals, harming communities and livelihoods along the U.S. Gulf Coast and along the LNG value chain. Congress should be finding ways to protect Americans from high energy bills, climate disasters, and deadly pollution, but this bill would do just the opposite.

Improving Interagency Coordination of Natural Gas Pipelines Act

This bill amends the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for any project seeking authorization under section 3 or section 7 of the Natural Gas Act. Such projects include not only the construction or extension of natural gas pipelines but also LNG export authorizations and LNG terminal construction. For these projects, the bill amends three primary aspects of the NEPA process. First, it requires FERC to invite agencies to join the NEPA review process as "participating agencies," creates extensive paperwork requirements, and entirely bars non-participating agencies from the NEPA process. This means non-participating agencies cannot conduct a supplemental NEPA review or even submit a comment. Second, this bill allows FERC to conditionally approve projects based on remote surveys and wait to conduct in-person surveys until after project approval. Third, this bill allows the applicant to fund a third-party contractor to help review the application.

The "Improving Interagency Coordination of Natural Gas Pipelines Act" would erode NEPA review while creating inefficiencies. First, NEPA gives a seat at the table to all interested parties, but this bill would allow FERC to eliminate the voice of non-participating agencies and therefore ignore legitimate environmental concerns. Second, requiring all state and federal agencies to adhere to FERC's timeline does not guarantee a shortened NEPA

timeline but rather will only create excessive paperwork that will distract FERC and participating agencies from the substantive work. Third, conditional approval based on a remote survey is essentially a de facto permanent approval of a project, since conditional approval gives the applicant the power of eminent domain and allows construction to begin and damage to occur. Remote surveys can miss concerns that in-person surveys can identify, but they create inefficiency by introducing a two-step survey process. Finally, third-party contractors cannot be relied upon to be unbiased in their review of applications. The applicant (e.g. the pipeline owner) funds the third-party contractor's work, which creates a strong incentive for the contractor to support the applicant and undermines the integrity of the review process.

Expediting Generator Interconnection Procedures Act of 2025

This bill requires FERC to initiate within 180 days and finalize within 18 months a rulemaking to address "inefficiencies and ineffectiveness" in processing interconnection requests. The rule would require transmission providers to use modeling assumptions based on resources' "actual operating abilities and practices," select "cost effective" solutions, and expedite interconnection queue studies by employing best practices including automation and advanced computing.

We support this bill because it identifies and aims to address one of the key root causes of reliability and resource adequacy concerns: the slow speed of interconnection queues across the country. Interconnection queues across the U.S. hold nearly 3 Terawatts of new capacity, more than double the size of the existing grid and enough to meet projected demand. Nearly 95% of this new capacity is from clean energy technologies like solar and battery storage. While FERC's Order 2023 was a big step forward in streamlining interconnection procedures and Order 2023 implementation is key, this legislation acknowledges that FERC can do more to address the problem. Moreover, by putting all types of power generation and storage on an even playing field, this bill would ensure that reforms are made to the interconnection process that lead to the most reliable and lowest cost energy for Americans.

PART II: RELIABLE, ABUNDANT POWER IS ALSO CLEAN, HEALTHY POWER

While many of these bills seek to arrest innovation and increase costs by taking us back to the supposed good old days of gas and coal, the United States can meet growing electricity demand with the technologies of the present and future. We know it's possible, and the examples are rapidly growing. For example, on March 2, 2025, Texas' power grid – which is largely isolated from the rest of the country – broke its own record when it met over 76% of the state's electricity demand with wind and solar. Texas' new record tracks with other grids with access to world-class wind and solar, like California (150% of demand met with renewables, meaning they were exporting power) and the Southwest Power Pool (90% of demand met with renewables). As the cost of battery storage continues to rapidly decline,

renewables and storage will become an increasingly prevalent and affordable source of flexible power. And that's just the technologies of the present – there are countless new clean technologies in various stages of development, and American innovation can and should play a critical role in researching these technologies and getting them to market.

Grid operators already know how to operate high-renewable grids, and storage plays an increasingly important role. Yes, wind and solar generation are inherently different than gas or coal power plants: solar panels produce more energy when the sun is shining, and wind turbines produce more energy when the wind is blowing. But this is old news. Grid operators *already* account for the intermittent nature of renewables by calculating renewables' reliability value on a regular basis and planning accordingly. Moreover, battery storage provides similar reliability value to natural gas plants and can replace gas generation if deployed at sufficient scale. For example, in the last 3 years Texas and California have installed over 13 GW of grid-scale battery storage—the equivalent of a dozen nuclear power units. This has kept their systems reliable, even while temperatures and power demand broke records, and even as Texas has retired 61% of its coal fleet.

What's more, in extreme weather, renewables have stabilized the grid even as gas infrastructure has failed. First, let's take extreme heat, which is becoming increasingly common due to climate change. Historically, in most areas of the country, the grid has struggled most on hot summer afternoons when air conditioner use peaks. Summer 2024 was the hottest summer on record, but solar and battery storage met record peak power demand in regions where temperatures repeatedly hit triple digits. The afternoon, when air conditioner demand spikes, is also when solar production peaks, leading to diminishing reliability risk and lower prices for consumers. Next, let's turn to extreme cold, when gas power plant failures have threatened reliability. For example, Winter Storms Uri (2021) and Elliott (2022) caused major failures of the bulk power system when natural gas power plants and wellheads froze, and pipelines could not operate. Their failures were due not to a lack of domestic natural gas supply, but to insufficient weatherization throughout the natural gas supply and power generation system. Meanwhile, wind delivered nearly 4x what was expected during Elliott, minimizing blackouts.

Renewables are not only reliable: they also save consumers a lot of money. When gas and coal run less often, prices go down because fuel is the largest cost of fossil plants whereas renewables have zero marginal cost. That's why, on average, states producing high amounts of power from renewables have cheaper electricity rates: 10 out of the 12 states with the highest share of electricity from renewables have some of the lowest electricity prices in the country. Meanwhile, the unreliability of gas in cold temperatures has caused multi-billion-dollar price spikes as grid operators have scrambled to arrange backup for unreliable gas plants.

Keeping old fossil fuel infrastructure online would raise costs for consumers, and increasing LNG exports would further exacerbate the problem. For example, bills like the "Reliable Power Act" or the "Power Plant Reliability Act of 2025" could keep fossil fuel generators online even when they are not needed, forcing consumers to pay to keep them in operation

even when those same consumers' power is coming from cheaper renewables. And bills like the "Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act of 2025" that encourage additional LNG exports without guardrails to protect consumers would further raise the cost of gas used in domestic power generation. By exporting increasingly large quantities of LNG, Americans are forced to increasingly compete with foreign buyers for gas, subjecting domestic gas – and therefore electricity – prices to the higher prices and volatility of international markets.

We know that fossil fuel infrastructure causes significant public health and climate harms; bills that prop up fossil fuel production and generation will have real impacts on Americans' health and safety. Extensive literature links adverse health impacts to pollution from fossil fuel power plants. In addition to carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxide emissions, these plants also produce mercury and other heavy metals, particulate matter, and toxic runoff. From 1999-2020, U.S. coal power plants alone were responsible for over 460,000 premature deaths. LNG export terminals are a growing source of health impacts: in addition to methane and carbon dioxide, they release volatile organic compounds (VOCs), nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur dioxide (SO2), carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter (PM), which cause cancer, heart disease, asthma and other health problems. In fact, a recent study found that currently-operating LNG terminals cause approximately $957 in avoidable health costs each year, and this could rise to $2.33 billion if all terminals planned as of 2024 were built. The U.S. power sector is also a huge contributor to climate change; the United States is the world's second largest greenhouse gas contributor, and the power sector makes up a quarter of those emissions.

Putting in place policies that get more clean energy online can be a win-win solution for reliability and public health, but Congress must focus on the real challenges: building well-planned, adequate transmission and quickly connecting resources to the grid. Long-distance, high-voltage transmission lines can create a grid that is "bigger than the weather" by connecting regions across the country. With increased connectivity, weather-stressed regions can import energy from their neighbors, leading to fewer outages. Also, interregional transmission reduces congestion and can ensure that load growth from manufacturing, end-use electrification, and data centers can be met with the most efficient and low-cost resources, saving customers up to $10.6 billion annually. Flexible demand, energy efficiency, and advanced transmission technologies can also help meet increased demand. And, as previously discussed, policymakers should hold grid operators responsible for interconnecting new resources quickly enough to keep up with demand and remove barriers to connecting storage to the grid.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts, and we look forward to continued collaboration with the committee on these important issues.

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