



Mike Rowe

President and Chief Executive Officer
P.O. Box 47 ▪ Waukesha WI 53187
262-506-6700 ▪ mrowe@atcllc.com

September 29, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Upton:

I am writing to congratulate you on the introduction of H.R. 8, the “The North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015.” I offer the support of my company, American Transmission Company (“ATC”), for the bill’s consideration and passage by your committee.

ATC is a Wisconsin-based utility that owns, operates, builds and maintains the high-voltage electric transmission system serving portions of the Upper Midwest. Since our founding in 2001, ATC has invested \$3.5 billion to improve the adequacy and reliability of the electric transmission grid. The company is a member of the MISO regional transmission organization and provides nondiscriminatory service to all customers, supporting effective competition in energy markets without favoring any market participants.

Like you, ATC, too believes that the United States and our North American allies are well-positioned to lead the 21st century in producing and delivering low-cost, reliable and environmentally responsible energy both domestically and abroad. In order to achieve this goal, Congress must update federal energy legislation to reflect our country’s newfound energy supplies as well as recognize the role of new and emerging technologies that will make delivery and transmission of our energy supplies via an energy infrastructure more efficient and hardened against any potential disruptions.

In particular, ATC supports your efforts in H.R 8 designed to make our electric grid more reliable and resilient while keeping the cost of transmitting electricity affordable. For instance, we are supportive of the concept of authorizing the Department of Energy (DOE) to issue orders to protect the bulk power system and critical electric infrastructure during grid security emergencies as well as facilitating the protection and sharing of electric infrastructure information between public and private officials. We also generally support DOE adopting procedures to enhance communication between federal and state officials and the private sector to improve emergency response and recovery.

ATC also supports language that would clarify Congressional intent related to dispositions and acquisitions of FERC jurisdictional assets valued at or less than \$10 million. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (“EPAAct 2005”) added a new sub-section granting FERC jurisdiction to review sales of certain generating facilities, and increased the minimum monetary threshold of review to \$10 million, up from the \$50,000 threshold under which FERC had been operating since 1966. As the result of an apparent drafting error, the Federal Power Act section 203 (as amended by EPAAct05), statutory sub-section pertaining to mergers/consolidations of FERC-jurisdictional facilities did not completely express the minimum monetary threshold of \$10 million as intended by Congress. We support efforts to add clarifying language that expressly confirms Congress’s intent to raise the review threshold to \$10 million.

The United States is in a unique position to cement our leadership on the world stage as an energy superpower, while also continuing our leading role in developing energy infrastructure attuned to the challenges of a technology-driven 21st century economy. ATC believes that the North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act is a great first step toward achieving these goals, and we urge passage of this bill by your committee and the full House of Representatives.

Sincerely,



Mike Rowe
President and Chief Executive Officer