




**National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

September 29, 2015

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of America's consumer-owned electric cooperatives, I applaud the Committee for developing legislation to meet our nation's ongoing energy needs and modernize our infrastructure. I thank you Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member Pallone for the inclusive process that led to the development of the legislation. The North American Energy Security and Infrastructure Act of 2015, H.R. 8, is a strong step in the right direction, and we look forward to continuing to work with the Committee to address NRECA's remaining concerns.

NRECA appreciates the opportunities we have been afforded to present our views regarding modernizing the energy infrastructure; promoting energy efficiency and government accountability; and other important issues impacting electric co-ops. We strongly support the Section 1102 language to protect co-ops from environmental law liability when they comply with Department of Energy emergency orders. NRECA also supports legislative language establishing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as the lead agency for siting interstate natural gas permits. We also commend the Committee for ensuring clear authority in emergency situations as well as the establishment of a cyber sense program under the auspices of the Department of Energy.

NRECA agrees with Section 1110's language requiring that FERC prepare a report addressing the issue of reliability and performance assurance in regional transmission organizations. We believe this is the best approach to identify meaningful recommendations for future consideration.

Finally, we appreciate the opportunity to work with the Committee to address NRECA's need to ensure our members ability to self-supply capacity. Self-supply rights provide

the opportunity for co-ops and other load-servicing entities to obtain those specific resources that they and their consumers require to best meet their needs in light of a range of policy goals including low price, reliability, and fuel diversity. We look forward to continuing to work with the Committee on this key issue for our Members.

We urge Members of the Committee to support the bill and look forward to continuing to work productively with the Committee to improve our nation's energy policy.

Sincerely,



Kirk Johnson
Sr. Vice President, Government Relations

cc: The Honorable Ed Whitfield, Chairman
Subcommittee Energy and Power

The Honorable Bobby Lee Rush
Ranking Member
Subcommittee Energy and Power