



September 26, 2018

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan:

We are writing to urge you to bring to the House floor key energy grid security bills passed earlier this year by the House Energy and Commerce Committee. We write on behalf of our membership, the U.S. electric power industry, which includes investor-owned electric companies, public power utilities, and electric cooperatives. The sector supports more than 7 million American jobs and contributes \$880 billion annually to U.S. gross domestic product, about 5 percent of the total.

The threat to the grid from cyber and physical attacks is real and growing. Protecting and maintaining electric sector security and reliability is a top priority for our associations and our members. To keep up with evolving threats, the industry welcomes close coordination with government partners. In the FAST Act, Congress recognized the role the Department of Energy (DOE) plays in grid security by designating DOE as the Sector Specific Agency (SSA) for physical and cybersecurity for the energy sector and provided DOE with the authority to address imminent grid security incidents. Additionally, the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act (CISA) has been helpful in facilitating sharing between industry and government. Congress has been a constructive partner to enhance grid security.

The Energy and Commerce Committee passed several bills this year aimed at strengthening our shared responsibility to protect some of the nation's most critical infrastructure. We are particularly supportive of H.R. 5174, the Energy Emergency Leadership Act, and H.R. 5240, the Enhancing Grid Security through Public-Private Partnerships Act. H.R. 5174 would amend the DOE Organization Act to include energy emergency and energy security among the functions that the Secretary shall assign to an Assistant Secretary, with the intent to clarify and codify the functions of DOE's new Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER). H.R. 5240 directs DOE to establish a program to facilitate and encourage public-private partnerships to promote and advance the physical and cybersecurity of the electric power sector.

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Each would be a welcome addition to electric sector security practices. Our industry has a defense-in-depth approach to grid security that starts with mandatory and enforceable cyber and physical security standards. To that, our companies add information sharing, planning, preparation, response, and recovery activities, as well as drills and exercises to regularly test our postures and capabilities. And as it is a shared responsibility, we partner with government at all levels and with other critical infrastructure sectors across many of these efforts.

In addition to passing these Energy and Commerce Committee bills, there is more that Congress can do, including modernizing the SAFETY Act to meet the new threat of cyber-attacks; allowing electric companies access to federal databases to counter insider threats; and increasing security clearances to key electric company staff, while at the same time rapidly declassifying and making available actionable information about grid security.

Thank you for considering this important topic. We appreciate your leadership and efforts to help improve the security posture of our nation, including the energy sector, and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues to keep the energy grid reliable, resilient, and secure.

Sincerely,

American Public Power Association
Edison Electric Institute
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

CC: Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi
CC: The Honorable Greg Walden, Chairman, House Energy & Commerce Committee
CC: The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member, House Energy & Commerce Committee
CC: The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman, Energy Subcommittee
CC: The Honorable Bobby Rush, Ranking Member, Energy Subcommittee

The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide.

The Edison Electric Institute (EEI) is the association that represents all U.S. investor-owned electric companies. Our members provide electricity for about 220 million Americans, and operate in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association is the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape. As local businesses built by the consumers they serve, electric cooperatives have meaningful ties to rural America and invest \$12 billion annually in their communities.