



December 19, 2019

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heinrich,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to indicate our strong support for S. 3109 (Interregional Transmission Improvement Act of 2019). We are a diverse group of stakeholders representing a broad cross-section of the U.S. economy, including labor unions, manufacturing associations, environmental organizations, electric utilities, and clean energy trade associations. Together, we recognize the urgent need to upgrade our Nation's core electric infrastructure to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

As numerous recent studies have confirmed, investment in the electric transmission grid is critically needed to support enhanced system resilience, market efficiency, and the achievement of public policy goals, including reduced power sector emissions. There is growing recognition amongst stakeholders and policymakers that upgrades to the transmission system are critical to

ensuring the power system remains reliable and resilient while supporting the development of new generation resources.

While private capital is ready and available to invest in transmission projects that will support these goals, the current lack of an effective interregional planning process represents a key hurdle to project development. By bolstering the regulatory framework to facilitate planning cooperation among regional planning organizations and utilities, this legislation represents a critical step forward to support needed investments in interregional grid infrastructure. Further, this legislation creates a framework to bring private sector investment capital, and associated job creation and tax base benefits, to areas of the country that need it most.

We commend you for spearheading this legislation, and we urge all Senators to support its passage.

Sincerely,

Americans for a Clean Energy Grid
American Council on Renewable Energy
American Wind Energy Association
Berkshire Hathaway Energy Company
BlueGreen Alliance
Ceres
Enel Green Power North America, Inc.
ITC Holdings Corp.
National Electric Manufacturers Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
Solar Energy Industries Association
Union of Concerned Scientists
Wind and Solar Alliance

CC: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair, United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

The Honorable Joe Manchin, Ranking Member, United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources