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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6150

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November 18, 2025

The Honorable Laura Swett, Chairman
The Honorable David Rosner, Commissioner
The Honorable Lindsay See, Commissioner
The Honorable Judy Chang, Commissioner
The Honorable David LaCerte, Commissioner
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Chairman Swett and Commissioners Rosner, See, Chang and LaCerte:

America is experiencing a period of electricity demand growth not seen in decades. Utilities and grid operators are forecasting demand growth of 2% annually, compared to decades of near-zero growth—driven by the growth of domestic industries, electrification, cloud computing, and the development of data centers. As we build out the grid to meet rising demand, ensuring affordability for everyday Americans must be a central priority. The Energy Information Administration reports that retail electricity prices have risen faster than inflation since 2022.

Last month the Department of Energy sent the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) a proposal under Section 403 of the Department of the Energy Organization Act “presenting potential reforms to ensure the timely and orderly interconnection of large loads to the transmission system.” We support the Commission’s consideration of efforts to improve large-load and new generation interconnections so that the grid can reliably and affordably meet growing demand and capture the historic opportunities it presents for our nation. Faster generator and load interconnection processes, smart planning, and fair allocation of the costs of grid investments are essential. Additionally, the Commission must ensure that residential customers are not forced to bear the costs of these large-load interconnections.

We also respect the Commission’s jurisdiction over wholesale rates and the interstate transmission of electricity, as well as the states’ authority over retail rates. The Federal Power Act distinguishes between federal and state jurisdiction over electricity, and we strongly encourage the Commission to continue to honor this distinction when taking any future actions addressing large load interconnections. We look forward to seeing how the Commission chooses to address these pressing issues while balancing these boundaries.

The next generation of American industry — from data centers and artificial intelligence to advanced manufacturing — depends on a grid that can grow with our economy. Our Committee, which oversees the Commission and the Department of Energy, is uniquely positioned to ensure these agencies have the authority and resources needed to meet today's challenges.

We look forward to the Commission's work with entities it regulates to ensure our nation has a grid capable of providing reliable and affordable electricity to all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Lee".

MICHAEL S. LEE
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Martin Heinrich".

MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator