

**From:** [Austin Bird](#)  
**To:** [Congestion Study Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Citizen Comment: National Interest Energy Transmission Corridors (NIETC"s)  
**Date:** Monday, October 06, 2014 10:00:01 AM

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To Whomever It May Concern;

I am writing in support of the establishment of National Interest Energy Transmission Corridors (NIETCs).

The establishment of these corridors would further the progress of the budding alternative energy sector in the Midwest, particularly in my state, Iowa. I am a resident of Davenport, Iowa, and the "Rock Island Clean Line" project has become a hot button issue for many in my area.

Beyond the hype and hysteria, what I see is a true opportunity to continue to build on the progress we have made in Iowa with clean energy. Transmission of energy from areas with the ability to produce energy to areas without the same capability is the only way to create a sustainable energy grid in a cost effective and timely manner. With the current climate crisis, sustainable energy can not wait.

Citizens have a right to be concerned and have those concerns addressed and built upon; but they also need to be told "no" when unwavering demands stand in the way of the greater good. Eminent domain has a rightful and proper use in the construction of these lines, and progress for the many should not hinge on the will of a few. Indeed, this is exactly the purpose of eminent domain laws.

The suggestions of the people who oppose this and say "Each region should build their own power plants" ignores the economic reality that the opportunity and start-up costs of doing so in each region varies wildly across the nation. The Northeast, for example, has much less suitable and open land for wind turbines than the Midwest. While these things can still be constructed in the Northeast, they are less productive and/or significantly more expensive. These factors would restrict the supply in this region, which happens to be one of the (if not the) highest consumers of energy in the nation due to its high population density.

If it is truly this nation's desire is to end our dependence on dirty and foreign energy, which I hope it is, then the only realistic option is to create NIETCs to allow for the economical transmission of energy to the needed areas.

Thank you for your consideration, and please support the establishment of NIETCs.

Austin Bird