

## Plainsandeastern

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**From:** John Shepard <JShepard@sonoraninstitute.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 01, 2015 6:14 PM  
**To:** Plainsandeastern  
**Subject:** Clean Line Plains and Eastern Project  
**Attachments:** Clean Line Letter 6-15.doc

For your consideration. Thank you!

*John*

**John Shepard**  
Senior Adviser  
44. E. Broadway, Suite 350  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
tel 520.290.0828 ext 1108  
mobile 520.907.6521  
fax 520.290.0969  
email [jshepard@sonoraninstitute.org](mailto:jshepard@sonoraninstitute.org)



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June 1, 2015

The Honorable Ernest Moniz  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Support for the Plains & Eastern Clean Line

Dear Secretary Moniz,

I am writing to express support for the Plains & Eastern Clean Line and to urge the Department of Energy and Southwestern Power Administration to participate in the proposed project.

The Sonoran Institute works to promote siting of large-scale renewable energy generation and inter-state transmission projects in the West in manner that minimizes environmental and community impacts. In certain instances, we work closely with project proponents in an open and transparent way to encourage broad stakeholder engagement in project planning and design.

We have worked closely with Clean Line on individual transmission projects and regional transmission planning efforts in the West, and have found them to be constructive advocates for renewable energy transmission development and committed to transparent and inclusive engagement of diverse stakeholders around transmission planning and siting efforts.

Clean Line recognizes that, in order to stimulate clean energy development, create jobs, expand interregional transmission capacity, and improve system reliability, there is a need for new transmission infrastructure to connect our country's best renewable resources, which are located predominantly in remote areas, to distant cities and communities with a demand for low-cost clean energy. Much of our nation's existing transmission infrastructure is almost completely saturated, and the cost of moving power through the grid as it stands today is rising due to congestion.

Direct current technology is an efficient way of moving large amounts of energy over long distances. Through the use of this technology, the Plains & Eastern Clean Line could help modernize the country's transmission infrastructure and facilitate the reliable delivery of low-cost renewable energy across regions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Shepard', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

John Shepard  
Senior Adviser  
Sonoran Institute  
Tucson, Arizona