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JUN 16 2015

**Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability**

June 4, 2015

U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20), 1222 Program
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Support for the Plains & Eastern Clean Line under Section 1222 of EPAct of 2005

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing you today to support the Plains & Eastern Clean Line transmission project and to urge you to exercise your authority, under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAC 2005), to participate in the project. This transmission project is clearly in the public interest as it significantly improves overall system reliability among the states in the region; expands interregional transmission capacity; stimulates economic development and it creates jobs. Moreover, the project will help facilitate the President's clean energy plan by providing much needed transportation of high quality wind energy resources to a region of the country that is trying to diversify its power resource reliance on coal and nuclear power.

In doing so, the Plains & Eastern Clean Line will enable billions of dollars in new investments, generate millions of dollars in revenues for counties and local communities annually, and create thousands of jobs. In many respects, this project is one of the poster children for the clean energy economy you have been asked to champion by the President.

As you heard from many stakeholders during the Quadrennial Energy Review (QER) regional meetings you chaired, the siting and construction of interstate transmission facilities often are met with opposition from those who believe they do not directly benefit from the facility or the energy resources that flow over the line. From my experience, this form of opposition will always be expressed as it is the nature of stakeholders to support their respective interests. And sharing diverse opinions is the American way. That said, after extensive public participation in the siting process, there comes a time for decision-making. That time has arrived for this project.

As you also know well from your listening sessions in formulating the QER, the mid-west and plains states have some of the best renewable resources in the world. But to harness this important renewable energy resource, there is an unmet demand for

transmission infrastructure to connect these remotely located wind resources and match them with load.

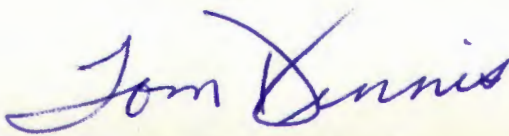
Existing transmission infrastructure connecting wind resource areas to the Mid-South and Southeast is essentially saturated. As a result, the transmission congestion in the region is preventing the economic movement of power through the grid, as well as imposing serious reliability problems that impact each state in the region.

High voltage direct current (HVDC) technology is the most efficient means of moving large amounts of energy over long distances. The Plains & Eastern Clean Line project is using HVDC technology, which will not only modernize the country's transmission infrastructure, but accelerate the reliable delivery of low-cost renewable energy across regions. Every state in the region will benefit from this project, as system pressures are reduced and overall reliability is increased, including in states which may not directly consume the wind energy resources.

The Department has an important responsibility to ensure the provision of electric energy for the country. As you oversee the modernization of our electric system, this project is a cornerstone and illustration of what can be done and what is needed to facilitate the clean energy transition.

The Congress understood well in 2005 that siting electric transmission facilities across states lines might well require federal participation to address regional concerns. Section 1222 of EPAC 2005 provided you the authority to partner with the private sector to build interregional transmission capacity, such as the movement of power from the wind-rich central US to demand centers in the Mid-South and Southeast that this project proposes. As we move closer to realizing the benefits of a clean energy economy, this project needs your help now to become a reality.

Sincerely,



Tom Dennis
Executive Vice President