

Plainsandean

From: Meghan McGuinness <mmcguinness@bipartisanpolicy.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2015 2:33 PM
To: Plainsandean
Cc: Tracy Terry; Michele Nellenbach
Subject: Letter from Senators Domenici and Dorgan
Attachments: 1222CommentLetter.pdf

Please find attached a letter from former Senators Domenici and Dorgan, Senior Fellows at the Bipartisan Policy Center.

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BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

July 8, 2015

The Honorable Ernest Moniz, Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Moniz:

Ten years ago, while we were serving as Chairman and member, respectively, of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Congress and President George W. Bush enacted the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct 2005), the first comprehensive energy bill in a dozen years. After much consultation with members on both sides of the aisle, we included provisions to encourage the expansion of the power grid to meet the nation's growing electricity needs. As part of the EPAct 2005 Electricity Title, we enacted a series of revisions to Part II of the Federal Power Act that focused on transmission infrastructure modernization, creating Section 1222 and other new authorities to expand transmission infrastructure.

Section 1222 was intended to foster public-private cooperation to upgrade or build new transmission projects for the secure and reliable delivery of affordable energy, establishing a new development path for cost-effective transmission projects that previously were impeded by challenges related to funding, siting, or cost-allocation. It is a tool for tackling the underlying challenges that EPAct 2005 was designed to address – modernizing transmission infrastructure, increasing the use of domestic energy sources, and ensuring jobs for our future through an abundant, affordable energy supply.

The U.S. power and energy infrastructure is outdated and must be updated. China and India are currently constructing more than two dozen long-distance high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission projects. Section 1222 provides an opportunity for DOE to play a leadership role in building much-needed energy infrastructure, with the risk borne by the private sector, rather than by ratepayers or taxpayers. We believe that this measure provides an important opportunity to ensure development of critical projects that enhance the reliability and security of our nation's electric grid.

Sincerely,

Senator Pete V. Domenici
Senior Fellow, Bipartisan Policy Center

Senator Byron Dorgan
Senior Fellow, Bipartisan Policy Center