



July 6, 2021

The Honorable Joe Manchin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to indicate our strong support for *Section 1005 (Siting of Interstate Electric Transmission Facilities)* and *Section 1006 (Rulemaking to Increase the Effectiveness of Interregional Transmission Planning)* in the Energy Infrastructure Act discussion draft. We are a diverse group of stakeholders representing a broad cross-section of the U.S. economy, including labor unions, environmental organizations, commercial and industrial customers, and energy trade associations. Together, we recognize the urgent need to upgrade our nation’s core electric infrastructure to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

As numerous recent studies have confirmed, investment in the electric transmission grid is critically needed to support enhanced system resilience, market efficiency, and the achievement of public policy goals, including reduced power sector emissions. There is growing recognition among stakeholders and policymakers that upgrades to the transmission system are critical to ensuring the power system remains reliable and resilient while supporting the development of new generation resources.

Both the current lack of an effective interregional planning process along with an inability to site regionally significant high-voltage lines are two key impediments to project development. These provisions create a framework to bring private sector investment capital, and associated job creation and tax base benefits, to areas of the country that need it most. By bolstering the regulatory framework to facilitate siting and planning cooperation among regional planning organizations, states, and utilities, these sections represent a critical step forward to support needed investments in interregional grid infrastructure.

We commend you for spearheading this bipartisan legislation, and we urge all senators to support the inclusion of *Section 1005* and *Section 1006* in the final package.

Sincerely,

**American Clean Power Association
American Council on Renewable Energy
Americans for a Clean Energy Grid
BlueGreen Alliance
Natural Resources Defense Council**

**Niskanen Center
Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance
Solar Energy Industries Association
Union of Concerned Scientist**

CC: The Honorable John Barrasso, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources