



DAVID A. RAYMOND  
PRESIDENT & CEO

November 14, 2013

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman, House Committee on Energy & Commerce  
2125 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – the business association of the nation’s engineering industry – we would like to convey our strong support for HR 3301, the North American Energy Infrastructure Act, which will help achieve North American energy independence.

One of the key objectives to securing the nation’s long-term economic security is the need to expand our access to safe, secure and sustainable sources of energy. To enhance our energy security and develop more reliable and stable long-term energy sources, the U.S. must pursue every avenue possible towards achieving a greater degree and balance of energy self-sufficiency, ranging from innovative alternative/renewable energy sources to natural gas and oil.

Oil pipelines, natural gas pipelines and electric transmission lines cross both the northern and southern borders of the U.S. We must implement a fair and standardized approval process for energy projects that cross our borders. The cross-border permitting process currently in place has been established by a series of Executive Orders. H.R. 3301 consolidates and standardizes the process for all three energy sources.

We applaud the legislation’s commitment to protecting the environment and expediting the application process. Environmental laws and permits would still be applicable to the project and applications for cross-boundary energy infrastructure projects must be deemed consistent with the national interest within 120 days of being submitted unless the project is not in the national security interests of the U.S.

We commend you and Congressman Gene Green for introducing this bipartisan legislation. The North American Energy Infrastructure Act is a responsible step in the right direction towards advancing America’s energy needs. We look forward to working with you to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Raymond", is written over a thin, light-colored line.