



June 16, 2014

The Honorable John Boehner  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

Dear Speaker Boehner,

On behalf of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), I am writing in strong support of H.R. 3301, *the North American Energy Infrastructure Act*, which would establish a more uniform and transparent approval process for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of oil or natural gas pipelines or electric transmission facilities for the import or export of oil, natural gas, or electricity to or from Canada or Mexico. NECA believes this legislation will facilitate construction projects along the United States' borders and encourage energy independence.

NECA is the nationally recognized voice of the \$130 billion electrical construction industry that brings power, light, and communication technology to buildings and communities across the U.S. NECA's national office and its 119 local chapters are dedicated to enhancing the industry through continuing education, labor relations, safety codes, standards development, and government relations. NECA is committed to advocating for a comprehensive energy policy that addresses all available opportunities for energy exploration and independence.

By establishing a more concrete process for the approval of construction projects to import oil, natural gas, and electricity, this legislation would create more jobs in the construction industry while working towards America's energy independence. H.R. 3301 would require officials to approve a construction request within 120 days of receiving the request, unless the official finds that the project is not in the national security interests of the United States. Requiring approval within this time frame allows construction companies to better plan for the project and will allow for more construction projects to be completed in a shorter amount of time.

Construction along the U.S. border to import oil, natural gas, and electricity will greatly enhance our nation's energy security and promote energy independence. Increasing global demand for energy and the continued economic and political volatility in many oil producing regions demonstrates a clear and growing need here at home for all forms of reliable and affordable energy. Canada is already our largest supplier of imported oil. At a time of unrest and uncertainty in other energy producing countries around the world, Canada's vast energy reserves are more important to the future of U.S. energy security than ever before. Enhancing our energy partnership with Canada will strengthen America's energy future.

It is clear Congress has a critical role in streamlining the approval process and enacting policies that support approval and construction of energy infrastructure projects. The benefits of these projects are clear: job creation, energy security, energy independence, and economic growth; such construction is in the national interest. NECA strongly endorses H.R. 3301 that will deliver these many benefits to our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marco A. Giamberardino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M".

Marco A. Giamberardino  
Executive Director, Government Affairs

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