

June 16, 2014

Hon. Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Gene Green  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: North American Energy Infrastructure Act, H.R. 3301

Dear Mr. Chairman Upton and Congressman Green,

On behalf of WIRES, I am pleased to express our support for your bill (H.R. 3301), which would modernize and reform the approval process for energy infrastructure projects that extend across the U.S.-Canadian or U.S.-Mexican borders.

WIRES is an international non-profit trade association of investor-, member-, and publicly-owned electric transmission providers, renewable resource developers, regional transmission organizations, and economic, technology, and policy firms whose shared mission is promotion of investment in transmission ([www.wiresgroup.com](http://www.wiresgroup.com)).

As we understand it, this legislation is designed to simplify and expedite the permitting of energy delivery facilities, including and especially electric transmission. It substitutes a certification process for the current Presidential Permit process without undoing the environmental analysis requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

We note, Mr. Chairman, that the electric transmission system in North America is interconnected and that the reliability of our electricity system is in no small part a product of access to diverse resources, technologies, and investments that the high-voltage grid brings together to serve customers on both sides of the international border. However, we also point out that planning and constructing electric transmission is a difficult, expensive, and unduly time-consuming process due to layer-upon-layer of uncoordinated regulatory processes within the U.S. itself.

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WIRES is thankful for Congressional interest in improving regulation of these critical facilities and stands ready to assist policymakers who share its concerns about the adequacy of the Nation's energy delivery infrastructure.

Respectfully submitted,



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