



## FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of the Chairman

November 16, 2023

National Caucus of Environmental Legislators  
1100 H Street NW, Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear State Legislators,

Thank you for your October 4, 2023, letter regarding the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's notice of proposed rulemaking on regional transmission planning in Docket No. RM21-17. As a former state regulator, I particularly appreciate your interest in these matters and the important role that states play in shaping the electric generation mix and ensuring that consumers have access to reliable and affordable electricity. Let me assure you that this proceeding remains among my chief priorities, especially following the Commission's issuance of its final rule on generator interconnection in July (Order No. 2023). That historic final rule on interconnection is the first of what I hope will be several important measures that the Commission takes to ensure that our electric grid is reliable, affordable, and sustainable.

My goal is to ensure that we are efficiently planning and constructing much-needed new transmission facilities. And so, I could not agree more on the importance of finalizing our proposed rule on regional transmission planning (RM21-17). A robust transmission network is the foundation for electric reliability, especially in the face of the extreme weather events we have experienced over the last several years, including Winter Storm Elliott. In addition, transmission will enable us to access new, low-cost generating resources to help keep customers' energy bills reasonable. And, as your letter discusses, transmission can help integrate cleaner sources of generation into the resource mix, which are particularly beneficial to our most vulnerable communities.

I also agree with the views expressed in your letter regarding the importance of several specific components of any final rule. For example, I agree that it must address the multiple drivers of future transmission needs, including the evolving generation resource mix and customer base, as well as the broader set of benefits and beneficiaries of planned transmission facilities. I also agree that advanced transmission technologies should be part of any eventual Commission action, as they often provide customers with the best bang for the buck when it comes to planning the transmission system.



Thank you again for expressing your perspectives on these critical issues. I will bear them in mind as I continue to review the record developed in this proceeding and discuss next steps with my colleagues. I assure you that the decisions the Commission makes are based upon a thorough and careful review of the record, which includes your letter. Finally, to reiterate, I genuinely appreciate hearing the state perspective and encourage your continued participation in this and other proceedings before the Commission.

Your letter and this reply will be placed in the public file in Docket Nos. RM21-17-000 and RM22-14-000. If I can be of further assistance in this or any other Commission matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Willie Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Willie Phillips  
Chairman