

September 13, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
House Committee on Energy and
Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and
Commerce
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

As associations representing commercial, industrial, and residential consumers and public interest groups, we want to thank the House Committee on Energy and Commerce (“the Committee”) for providing \$9 billion for electric transmission funding and within that amount, specifically including \$100 million for organized wholesale electricity markets, in its portion of the Build Back Better Act.

Recently, states—from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean—are leading the way, exploring options to form, expand, and improve organized wholesale electricity markets, which support grid reliability, encourage energy efficiency, increase savings for energy consumers, and accelerate decarbonization. Additionally, both Congress and the Biden Administration are advancing policies to spur infrastructure development, promote clean energy, and decrease emissions.

We appreciate the Committee including language, specifically section 30463, that would provide funds for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to provide technical assistance grants to states looking to form, expand, or improve organized wholesale electricity markets in its portion of the Build Back Better Act.

As states, including South Carolina, Oregon, Nevada, and Colorado, continue to explore opportunities to form, expand, and improve organized wholesale markets, they will benefit from collaborating with the DOE’s Office of Electricity to ensure that the state energy and regulatory officials and consumers have the necessary tools, including grid, economic, and emission modeling.

We look forward to working with you to build a better system ready to power our economy into the future.

Sincerely,

National Association of State Energy
Officials (NASEO)
Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance (REBA)
Advanced Energy Economy (AEE)
Carolina Utility Customers Association
(CUCA)
Coastal Conservation League
Energy Alabama

Energy Choice Coalition (ECC)
National Retail Federation (NRF)
Renewable Northwest (RNW)
Renew Missouri
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE)
Southern Renewable Energy Association (SREA)
Southface Institute
Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)

Enclosures:

1. Letter to Congress, dated September 1, 2021, from Colorado, Nevada, and Oregon state legislators highlighting their recent efforts enacting legislation that would allow their respective states to evaluate and/or develop organized wholesale electricity markets and discussing the benefits of collaborating with the DOE's Office of Electricity, which maintains the necessary tools and expertise, including grid, economic, and emission modeling.
2. Letter to Congress, dated July 21, 2021, from nineteen associations urging Congress to establish a dedicated program at the DOE's Office of Electricity to provide technical and financial assistance on a voluntary basis to states for efforts related to wholesale market buildout, as part of the ongoing discussions around grid modernization and energy infrastructure.

Cc: U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee