

February 13, 2025

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
Washington, D.C.

Subject: The Critical Role of U.S. DOE Power Marketing Administrations and their Employees in Advancing DOE's Energy Priorities

Dear Secretary Wright,

On behalf of the nation's public power utilities that pay for the federal Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs) and rely on them to deliver cost-effective and reliable electricity, we commend your vision for unleashing [American energy dominance](#). We appreciate the Department of Energy's (DOE) focus on strengthening grid reliability, advancing American energy innovation, and ensuring energy affordability for all Americans. As key stakeholders in the nation's energy future, we also respectfully highlight the indispensable role of PMA employees in achieving these shared objectives.

PMAs serve as a cornerstone of our nation's energy system, particularly in rural and otherwise underserved areas of the country, managing vast federal power and transmission networks that provide affordable and dispatchable electricity to multiple millions of homes and businesses. In alignment with DOE's priority to **strengthen grid reliability and security**, PMA employees work to maintain and modernize an energy system that is vital to national security and economic prosperity.

Additionally, as DOE prioritizes **energy addition and affordability**, it is essential to recognize federal generating resources, including domestic hydropower and other generation sources, as cost-effective, reliable resources that enhance American energy independence.

Furthermore, as the Administration seeks to **streamline permitting and accelerate infrastructure development**, the nation's PMA employees play a crucial role in overseeing high-voltage transmission infrastructure that enables energy growth and resilience. Their deep technical knowledge and regional expertise make them an invaluable asset in advancing DOE's mission to modernize the nation's energy infrastructure.

Given the PMA's critical function in supporting **grid security, infrastructure development, and energy affordability**, we urge DOE to recognize PMA employees as essential contributors to the Administration's energy vision. Retaining and investing in this skilled workforce will ensure continued progress toward a robust, resilient, and cost-effective energy system.

Lastly, it is important to note that PMA employees and the work they do is funded by ratepayers through their respective utility customers, not U.S. taxpayers. This arrangement does not put extra strain on the federal budget, and provides an extra measure of local accountability,

oversight and transparency from the utilities footing the bill for these federal PMA employees and the work they do in our respective PMA regions.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your team to learn more about your energy vision for DOE, and to share our perspectives on how the PMAs can help. We appreciate your leadership and, again, look forward to working together on these energy priorities ahead.

Sincerely,

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