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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
November 2, 2007

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The Honorable Samuel Bodman  
Secretary, Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave SW  
Washington DC 20585-0001

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write again to express my serious and continuing concerns about the Mid-Atlantic National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor designation which has engulfed my district. My constituents and I have raised concerns over and over through letters, phone calls, meetings and public forums. Yet, we see no evidence that anyone at your department is listening. We only see evidence that utility companies have been heard. I am deeply disappointed in the manner in which your department has handled the mandate contained in Section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. I will reiterate those specific concerns.

First and foremost, citizens did not have an adequate opportunity to be heard. The public meetings held to gather public comment required citizens to take off a day of work and drive hours to speak for just two minutes, and their comments, like mine, did not qualify us to petition for rehearing.

Second, according to *Webster's* dictionary, a corridor is defined as a "narrow passageway or route." I fail to understand how the Department of Energy has managed to redefine the plain language of the statute to mean an area encompassing the length and breadth of seven states.

Third, the data used in the study Congress required to properly designate a corridor was provided by interested utility companies. That's the proverbial fox guarding the hen house. That data failed to include congestion relief from any of the proposed generation facilities or savings from demand side management programs currently in place. However, they did include increased congestion that would be caused by proposed power plant closings. The study also failed to account for state laws and programs with energy efficiency requirements and renewable portfolio standards that would likely change congestion projections.

Fourth, although the express language of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 required the consideration of alternatives, the department interpreted alternatives as simply new ways to draw lines. It is commonly understood that alternatives in the context of energy planning means methods to address congestion and ensure reliability. Designation of the corridor clearly skews economic indicators toward the building of large transmission facilities as opposed to generation close to load centers, upgrading existing lines, robust demand side management programs or

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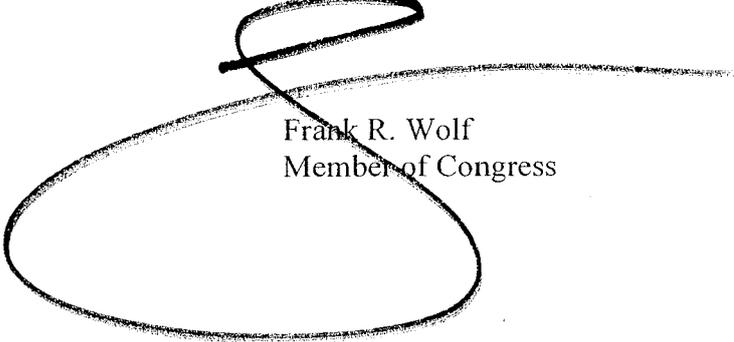
investment in next generation smart grid technologies. There was no study of these alternatives or their respective costs and benefits. Once huge transmission towers traverse acres of pristine landscape and neighborhoods, it will be too late.

I support investing in our nation's energy future. That doesn't mean just looking at the least expensive or most expedient solution for today. I know the Department of Energy is investing millions of dollars to find solutions, but the designation of gigantic transmission corridors, without even looking at viable alternatives, does not allow our country to capitalize on that investment.

I urge your personal attention to these concerns.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress

FRW:eb