

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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241 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4610
(202) 225-5136

13873 PARK CENTER ROAD
SUITE 130
HERNDON, VA 20171
(703) 709-5800
(800) 945-9653 (IN STATE)

110 NORTH CAMERON STREET
WINCHESTER, VA 22601
(540) 667-0990
(800) 850-3463 (IN STATE)

wolf.house.gov

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I continue to have concerns about the Department of Energy's process for National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor designation.

It is my understanding that DOE has received substantive and comprehensive comments from numerous experts in the field of electric transmission and generation planning which have pointed out severe flaws in the study and data underlying the draft NIETC designations. Many of those experts have shared their comments with me. I quote here from just one of those:

The DOE should, therefore, conduct a comprehensive cost/benefit analysis that considers all of the resource options at parity before making any NIETC designations. Otherwise, current efforts by States to implement the DOE's recommendation to expand demand response and energy efficiency programs could wind up being inefficient or futile or both.

– Comments to the DOE from the National Association of Regulatory Utility
Commissioners, October 10, 2006

This comment, similar to others from experts such as the state boards which daily evaluate and make decisions on the reliability and the future of the nation's electric grid, point out the disconcerting amount of detailed data the department failed to consider in the congestion study released in August 2005.

Additionally, I believe there is a general consensus that designation of a National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor cannot and should not go forward without a comprehensive analysis of alternatives to transmission upgrades including upgrading current lines with smart grid technology or superconductors, using demand response programs and energy efficiency programs or installing clean back-up generation at key load commercial and industrial centers.

I request a meeting with you or appropriate department staff as quickly as possible to discuss these concerns and the way forward. My scheduler Jennifer Allen can be contacted at (202) 225-5136.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

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