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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
December 19, 2007

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

Dear Mr. Secretary:

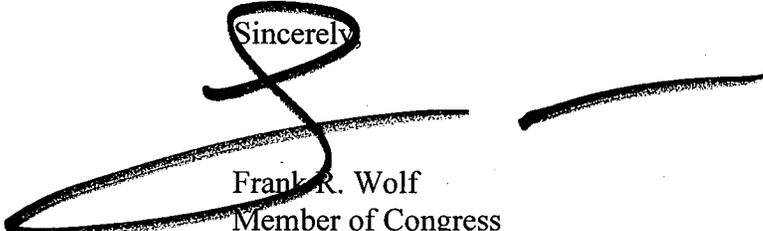
I write again to express my serious and continuing concerns about the Mid-Atlantic National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC) designation which has engulfed my district. My constituents and I have raised concerns over and over through letters, phone calls, meetings and public forums. Today I want to share with you the enclosed relevant portion of a staff report from the West Virginia regulatory agency reviewing an application for a transmission line which would traverse West Virginia, Virginia and Pennsylvania that indicates the detrimental effects of the corridor designation.

The staff of the West Virginia Public Service Commission strongly recommends that the commission deny Allegheny's application, in large part because no "integrated research process" was used to conclude that building this new transmission line was the most cost-effective and efficient method to solve the mid-Atlantic region congestion issues your department has pointed out. The West Virginia staff identifies the relatively broad requirements for siting a line under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and subsequent designation of the region as an NIETC as the cause for this inadequate planning process.

This staff report is instructive in identifying that at least one utility company is not conducting the kind of resource planning necessary for states to make accurate and informed decisions on electric resource projects because of the designation of NIETCs. The commission staff even mentions that though FERC may have resources to gather the information and do the modeling to fill in the planning gap, states do not have such resources. This puts states in the position of not being able to definitively rule on similar applications in the future.

This type of situation is exactly what I feared may occur. Utility companies are seeking to build transmission lines not as one of an array of possible solutions, but as the first solution. Once again, I ask you to reconsider your decision to designate National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors of such sweeping magnitude.

Sincerely


Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

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enclosure