

**October 7, 2025**

**The Honorable Spencer J. Cox**

Chair, Western Governors' Association

**The Honorable Josh Green**

Vice Chair, Western Governors' Association

Dear Governors Cox and Green,

On behalf of the undersigned businesses and associations, we write to express our strong support for Governor Cox's WGA Chair Initiative, *"Energy Superabundance: Unlocking Prosperity in the West."* We applaud your leadership in tackling one of the most consequential infrastructure challenges facing the region: the urgent need to expand and modernize our electricity system to power a reliable, affordable, and secure energy future.

A focus on increasing energy generation, advancing new innovative technologies, and modernizing and expanding transmission is both timely and essential. As the Western region confronts rising electricity demand, aging infrastructure, and more extreme weather events, a coordinated strategy to strengthen the backbone of our power system is critical.

Transmission plays a foundational role in this system. Regardless of where or how electricity is generated, it must move through high-voltage transmission lines to reach homes, businesses, and industry. Yet, our current transmission system is outdated, congested, and in some areas entirely lacking where new power is most needed. Without proactive and regionally coordinated planning for new transmission and expanded capacity on existing lines, the West risks missing out on cost-effective energy, high-quality job creation, and expanded economic development.

To support a thriving 21st-century economy, the U.S. will need to build over 90,000 miles of new transmission in the coming decade. Projected growth in power demand from industrial uses, such as manufacturing and data centers, adds urgency to the need for robust, long-distance transmission infrastructure. In fact, the Western Interconnection alone is projected to need at least 15,000 miles of new, high voltage

transmission in addition to the already planned large projects in the next 20 years to meet the region's needs<sup>1</sup>.

We commend you, and the Western Governors' Association, for recognizing the importance of transmission. Long-term, collaborative planning as a region is critical to achieving the transmission buildout that we need. Efforts like the [Western Transmission Expansion Coalition](#) (WestTEC) and the [Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation's Transmission Collaborative](#) (CREPC TC) are helping to build momentum for regional solutions. Without strong coordination and planning across jurisdictions, the cost and scale of transmission needs will only grow. Regional planning is not only more efficient, but also essential to ensure reliable and affordable electricity for all Western communities.

**As the Western Governors' Association advances this initiative, we respectfully urge you to:**

- Champion continued engagement in WestTEC and CREPC TC, and ensure your states are actively shaping these efforts.
- Support constructive dialogue around cost allocation to equitably share the benefits and costs of new transmission projects.
- Encourage utilities and transmission owners in your states to look beyond local fixes and invest in regional infrastructure that delivers broader reliability and economic benefits.
- Work to expedite transmission permitting, by aligning state, local, and federal environmental reviews and permitting processes and reducing redundant analysis, while improving outcomes for affected local communities and natural resources.

With thoughtful planning and collaboration, the West can lead the country in building a grid that is reliable, affordable, and ready to power the industries of tomorrow. We are grateful for your leadership and stand ready to partner with you to make this vision a reality.

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<sup>1</sup> Connected West Study: <https://gridworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Connected-West-Final-Report-240918.pdf>

Sincerely,

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