

September 6, 2017

Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Cory Gardner  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Joe Manchin III  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Murkowski, Cantwell, Gardner, and Manchin:

The security of the United States electric grid is essential to the provision of reliable energy in the West. The bipartisan Securing Energy Infrastructure Act, [S. 79](#), creates a pilot program and working group to: identify the security vulnerabilities of critical infrastructure; create and implement technology programs and standards to defend that infrastructure; and develop a national cyber-informed strategy to insulate the energy grid from attacks.

This bill advances the Western Governors' goals of putting the United States on a path to energy security and modernizing transmission and pipeline infrastructure, as articulated in Western Governors' Association Policy Resolution [2016-09, Energy and Transmission](#), and the Association's [10-Year Energy Vision](#). Western Governors appreciate the bill's requirement that the working group must include a representative from a state or regional energy agency.

Western Governors are committed to helping improve cybersecurity for the energy grid and support the Securing Energy Infrastructure Act's provisions to improve the security of our nation's critical energy infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Dennis Daugaard  
Governor of South Dakota  
Chair, WGA



David Ige  
Governor of Hawaii  
Vice Chair, WGA