

Energy Infrastructure

Background:

The electrical contracting industry specifies, installs and services products related to energy production and efficiency. Deployment of energy efficiency technology and infrastructure has been slow due to marketplace, government and economic barriers. NECA supports a comprehensive energy policy that increases all avenues of domestic production including domestic oil and natural gas exploration as well as clean and renewable energy sources.

Key Points:

- *Invest in Transmission Line Infrastructure and Smart Grid Technology.* Our power line infrastructure must be modernized. Upgraded transmission line and distribution infrastructure, coupled with implementation of smart grid technology will improve the reliability, efficiency, and security of the nation's electricity infrastructure. Congress should continue to fund the Smart Grid Investment Grant Program and other programs to fund improvements to transmission infrastructure and smart grid technologies.
- *Incentivize Clean and Renewable Energy Sources.* Important advancements have been made in clean and renewable energy sources, which are both environmentally friendly and efficient. Congress should create a long-term solution to promote alternative energy technology tax incentives which were left out of the 2015 omnibus legislation. Specifically, for the investment tax credit (ITC) under section 48 of the Tax Code.
- *Streamline the Approval Process for Pipeline Infrastructure.* Congress must ensure that future projects are not subjected to an unnecessarily complicated and protracted approval process. It should also accelerate the regulation process for pipeline safety regulations and foster improved coordination between the government and industry.
- *Increase the Deployment of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) and Waste Heat to Power (WHP).* These technologies offer our industrial sector a source of clean and efficient energy, reduces fuel use, and lowers emissions. Congress should amend the renewables definition to include CHP and WHP as well as increase their deployment at the Federal level, including federally-assisted state and local facilities.
- *Promote Development of Energy Storage Technologies.* We must find new ways to harness energy generated from renewables and maximize their use in an efficient manner. Congress should offer tax credits to incentivize energy storage technology as part of an integrated approach to modernizing the nation's electric grid. This would help usher a national transformation to a smarter and more reliable power grid.

NECA Asks:

- Pass a robust, well-funded, comprehensive energy policy bill that addresses needs in all sectors.