

January 28, 2016

Chairman Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6150

Ranking Member Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6150

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Senator Cantwell:

On behalf of the Large Public Power Council (LPPC), I want to commend you for including Subtitle D – Grid Reliability, section 4301 - bulk-power system reliability impact statement in S. 2012. LPPC fully supports the need to address electric grid reliability in energy legislation, and appreciates the opportunity your staff gave us to have input on this important issue.

As you know, the Large Public Power Council (LPPC), represents the twenty-five largest consumer-owned electric utilities in the United States and collectively serve thirty million electricity consumers. We represent utilities in thirteen states including Washington, California, Arizona, Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina, New York and the Territory of Puerto Rico.

Our members represent broad diversity in geography, asset and resource mix, and customer base. We are all focused on striking the optimal balance of reliability, affordability and environmental stewardship. The services that we provide are critical to the economic vitality and quality of life in the communities we serve.

The transition of the electric industry will take time, and the current carbon emission proposals represent only the first installment of reductions being advocated for the longer term. The changes in the supply mix currently being proposed, albeit very challenging, only represent a beginning to the transition to cleaner fuels and a more distributed environment.

LPPC believes also that timing is critical since major investments by communities will need to be made to support the transition and working hard to get things right the first time reduces the likelihood of a reliability event or unnecessary costs to consumers. Reliability, affordability and environmental stewardship are not mutually exclusive but they do require foresight and a balanced approach.

For all of these reasons, LPPC appreciates your inclusion of section 4301 in the bill, and stands ready to work with you to support enactment of a reliability provision as the legislative process moves forward.

I am available to answer questions or comments that you may have as the process progresses.

Thank you,

John

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cc: Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee