



National Association of State Energy Officials

August 19, 2020

Representative Ami Bera
Vice Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
1727 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Vice Chairman Bera:

The National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) thanks you for the important proposals in H.R. 5760, the Grid Security Research and Development Act. The cybersecurity and physical security of the nation's energy systems is a priority for NASEO members, the 56 governor-designated energy officials from the states, territories, and the District of Columbia.

NASEO is appreciative of the inclusion of state and local governments and regulatory authorities, such as public utilities commissions, as entities eligible to receive technical assistance to support the commercial application of grid security technologies. We encourage you to more explicitly incorporate the critical role played by state governments, particularly State Energy Offices, in securing the nation's electric infrastructure and other key assets.

The State Energy Offices possess expertise across energy production, transmission, distribution, and major end-uses, including: petroleum, propane, regulated and unregulated electric and natural gas systems, microgrids, energy efficiency, renewables, storage, codes, and standards. While public utilities commissions have shared responsibility over investor-owned utilities' emergency planning, response, and mitigation efforts, State Energy Offices are deeply engaged in the energy-emergency management responsibility, with most leading Emergency Support Function 12-Energy functions and other lifeline initiatives (such as energy sector cybersecurity planning, incident detection, and response). They are also instrumental in technology research, development, demonstration, and commercialization in partnership with industry and the research community. This multi-faceted knowledge is foundational in addressing issues that drive grid and community resilience, and make State Energy Offices uniquely qualified to advance the electricity reliability goals of H.R. 5760.

The reliability and security of the electric grid is a critical factor in state and local economic development, job quality and creation, and resilience and security. NASEO looks forward to working with you to enhance and maximize the reach, impacts, and success of H.R. 5760. We support early floor action to pass your legislation during this session of Congress.

Thank you for your consideration, and please contact NASEO General Counsel Jeff Genzer (jcg@dwgp.com) or me, NASEO Executive Director David Terry (dterry@naseo.org), for more information.

Sincerely,

David Terry, NASEO Executive Director

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