

June 16, 2023

Maria Robinson  
Director  
Grid Deployment Office  
United States Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Director Robinson:

We appreciate the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) focus on interregional transmission planning. This includes making funding available through your office for planning, modeling, and analysis and to facilitate stakeholder discussion.<sup>1</sup> In addition, as you know, DOE's Draft National Transmission Needs Study released earlier this year, as well as DOE's Atlantic Offshore Transmission Study, identified the anticipated need for substantial new transfer capacity between various regions such as New England and New York and the Mid-Atlantic and New York, as well as system and governmental needs for the successful integration of new resources throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.<sup>2</sup> Federal legislators and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission are also exploring or proposing changes to transmission planning and operations to increase transfer capabilities between regions.

Rather than wait for new regulatory mandates to spur action, we can collectively take steps now to consider expanding ties between our regions to help enhance system reliability and transition to a clean energy future more quickly and affordably. To facilitate this effort, we are respectfully writing to request your assistance in forming a "Northeast States Collaborative on Interregional Transmission." By convening this group and leveraging DOE's technical expertise, DOE and states representing New England, New York, and New Jersey can work in partnership to explore opportunities for increased interconnectivity, including for offshore wind, between our regions.

In addition to DOE and the states, the three regional transmission organizations (RTOs) representing our regions could be invited to participate as additional technical support to the Collaborative. As RTOs, they are uniquely positioned to help identify cost-effective options for increasing transfer capability and have been coordinating on planning for many years through an

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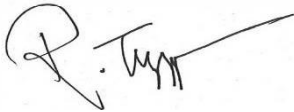
<sup>1</sup> Grid Deployment Office, Interregional and Offshore Wind Electricity Transmission Planning, Modeling and Analysis, at <https://www.energy.gov/gdo/interregional-and-offshore-wind-electricity-transmission-planning-modeling-and-analysis>.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Energy, National Transmission Needs Study: Draft for Public Comment, Feb. 2023, at <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-02/022423-DRAFTNeedsStudyforPublicComment.pdf>; U.S. Department of Energy, Atlantic Offshore Transmission Study, at <https://www.energy.gov/gdo/offshore-wind-transmission-federal-planning-support>.

existing interregional process.<sup>3</sup> The Collaborative's work could be expanded to include other states and, at a later stage if and when appropriate, Canadian representatives.

We would welcome an opportunity to discuss the development of the Collaborative in more detail, including its potential scope of work and objectives. Let's build on the strong partnership between DOE and the states to strengthen our power grid, drive down consumer costs, and accelerate the deployment of clean energy.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Tepper  
Secretary  
Massachusetts Executive  
Office of Energy and  
Environmental Affairs



Katie S. Dykes  
Commissioner  
Connecticut Department of  
Energy & Environmental  
Protection



Dan Burgess  
Director  
Maine Governor's Energy  
Office



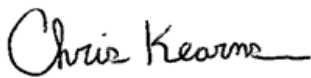
June E. Tierney  
Commissioner  
Vermont Department of  
Public Service



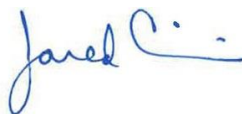
Doreen M. Harris  
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New Jersey Board of  
Public Utilities



Chris Kearns  
Acting Commissioner  
State of Rhode Island Office  
of Energy Resources



Jared Chicoine  
Commissioner  
New Hampshire Department  
of Energy

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.iso-ne.com/committees/planning/ipsac/>.