



Secretary Rick Perry
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

April 28, 2017

Dear Secretary Perry,

We are writing in response to your April 14, 2017, memorandum directing the Department of Energy to conduct a Study Examining Electricity Markets and Reliability.

We agree that the nation is indeed “blessed . . . to have an abundance of domestic energy resources” that provide a stable, reliable and resilient grid. As trade associations that jointly represent thousands of businesses across industries that support more than 3 million U.S. jobs in solar and wind power, energy efficiency, energy storage, and advanced grid technologies, we note that these homegrown energy resources are proven technologies that help support grid reliability. These energy resources have already been integrated smoothly into the electric power system in large and increasing amounts, as demonstrated in countless studies and, more importantly, in real-world experience across the U.S., including in Texas. Furthermore, we note that policies supporting the deployment of these technologies are not playing an important role in the decline of coal and nuclear plants. Numerous studies have conclusively demonstrated that low natural gas prices and stagnant load growth are the principal factors behind the retirements in coal and nuclear plants.

In light of the importance of this inquiry, we encourage you to follow standard practice and conduct the study in an open and transparent manner. When agencies prepare reports with policy recommendations that could affect entire industries and the millions of employees that work in them, such as the proposed one, it is customary for them to seek comments on a draft prior to the study being finalized. For technical studies like the one proposed here, a technical advisory committee of affected stakeholders to vet study assumptions, scenarios, etc. is also an option.

Public input, including from energy market participants, grid operators, and regulators, would help ensure that any resulting recommendations from the study are based on the best available information. In particular, this inquiry would benefit from our associations providing the Department with the latest information

about advanced energy technologies and how grid operators are currently using these technologies to help keep the lights on at all times and under all conditions.

In short, the undersigned business associations respectfully request that you initiate a public process that allows all stakeholders the opportunity to provide input into the study. We look forward to working with you as you conduct this study.

Sincerely,

Advanced Energy Economy
American Wind Energy Association
Solar Energy Industries Association

Cc: Governors Wind and Solar Energy Coalition