



Nov. 19, 2019

Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. Johnson:

On behalf of Duke Energy, I am pleased to offer support for the Grid Cybersecurity Research and Development Act, the Grid Modernization Research and Development Act of 2019, and the Better Energy Storage Technology Act (H.R. 2986). We applaud the committee's leadership on these issues.

Duke Energy delivers electricity to approximately 24 million Americans across six states in the Southeast and Midwest. Our priority is providing customers with reliable, affordable and increasingly emissions-free energy. We continue to deploy significant resources to make sure that we are delivering on this promise for our customers. Recently, we announced our goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. We must continue to innovate and protect our grid as we work to deliver a clean energy future for years to come.

We are undertaking a multiyear effort to modernize our electric grid, creating a smarter and more resilient grid that can protect against extreme weather and cyberattacks or physical attacks. These improvements will also help ensure the ability to balance the integration of more renewables with maintained reliability. We are pleased that the Grid Modernization Research and Development Act of 2019 supports next-generation, smart grid technologies that will result in critical benefits for customers. For example, we estimate that new grid technologies that we deployed in Florida helped avoid extended outages for 80,000 customers during Hurricane Florence in 2018.

Duke Energy recognizes the important role energy storage plays in furthering the integration of renewables, reducing emissions and improving grid reliability. We currently operate more than 2,000 megawatts of energy storage and are investing \$500 million in the technology over the next 15 years. Unfortunately, today's battery technology stores energy for hours, when we really need storage for seasons. We are pleased to see the amendment added to the Better Energy Storage Technology Act (H.R. 2986), providing a focus on the development of longer-duration battery storage research and demonstration.

A critical part of the transition to a cleaner energy future is ensuring that we don't compromise the security of our electric grid as it becomes more advanced and further resources are integrated. Duke Energy works diligently to manage and stay ahead of potential threats, using a "multilayered" defense that includes education and awareness, strengthening of our systems, and industry and government partnerships.

We are pleased to see the Grid Cybersecurity Research and Development Act reinforce the importance of information sharing between government and industry, as well as further research and development opportunities. We maintain close coordination with the Department of Energy (DOE) and Department of



Homeland Security (DHS) on cybersecurity matters and enhanced information sharing. Additionally, we support utilizing the full capabilities of the National Laboratories, strengthening DOE's Cybersecurity for Energy Delivery Systems (CEDS) R&D program, and enhancing the incident response capabilities of the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER).

A holistic approach is required to ensure the proper infrastructure and systems are in place to support a clean energy future. We look forward to working with you on these issues, as these types of efforts are critical to this approach.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louis E. Renjel".

Louis Renjel
SVP, Federal Government and Corporate Affairs