



February 12, 2020

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

The Honorable Frank Lucas
2405 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Ranking Member Lucas:

Thank you for your efforts to advance a series of bipartisan bills aimed at the creation of a smarter, more resilient electric grid that includes the secure integration of emerging technologies. Technologies, such as smart controls, energy storage, electric vehicles and distributed energy resources can reduce energy costs for consumers, improve load management and increase resiliency for the grid.

Many of the bills being considered will help utilities better and more cost-effectively integrate these technologies into the grid. Moreover, these bills also ensure security and interoperability are addressed on the front-end and not as an afterthought. On behalf of the more than 900 rural electric cooperatives represented by NRECA, I write to express support for the following legislation under consideration by the Committee:

H.R. 5428 – the “Grid Modernization Research and Development Act of 2019,” establishes a smart grid demonstration initiative and provides grants for utilities to enhance their grid resilience and emergency response capabilities.

H.R. 2986 – the “Better Energy Storage Technology Act,” will invest in much-needed energy storage research and development, and provide grant funding for utilities, including electric cooperatives, to carry out storage demonstration projects.

H.R. 5760 – the “Grid Security Research and Development Act,” will increase funding and ensure coordination around cybersecurity for emerging technologies and provide research and development grant funds for qualifying entities, including electric cooperatives. This legislation will also help support a cybersecurity workforce to help meet the needs of the electric power sector.

Again, thank you both for your leadership on these issues and for always working to make sure that legislation from this Committee is bipartisan. I commend the Committee for your consideration of these bills and look forward to working with you to advance these important pieces of legislation through the House.

Sincerely,



Louis Finkel

Senior Vice President, Government Relations
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

cc: The Honorable Conor Lamb
The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler
The Honorable Sean Casten
The Honorable Bill Foster
The Honorable Ami Bera
The Honorable Randy Weber