



The logo features five wavy horizontal lines in shades of blue and green, representing water or waves. To the right of these lines, the text "Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition" is written in a green, serif font. "Great Lakes" is on the top line, "Metro Chambers" is on the second line, and "Coalition" is on the third line.

Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition

October 13, 2016

Dear Energy Bill Conferees:

On behalf of the Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition (GLMCC) – composed of nearly 40 chambers of commerce in the Great Lakes states – we applaud your efforts to complete the energy bill before the end of the 114th Congress. Our member chambers have supported energy legislation throughout this Congress and we are eager to see a bill become law.

The Great Lakes Region is one of the world's most important economic engines, covering all or parts of twelve states and two Canadian provinces. If our region was a nation, it would be the third largest economy in the world with a combined gross domestic product of more than \$5.7 trillion powered by one of the most dynamic advanced manufacturing sectors in the world. Reliable sources of base load energy and transmission are the foundation of the Great Lakes manufacturing leadership and a prime source of the United States' competitive advantage in the global economy.

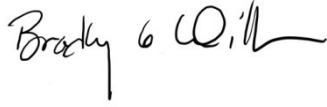
As we have outlined in meetings and written communication in the past, various provisions in S. 2012 and H.R. 8 begin to address a number of Great Lakes states' policy concerns over electric grid reliability and capacity, energy efficiency, base load and hydro resource development, natural gas distribution, regulatory updates, and energy workforce readiness. As a reminder as you conclude your negotiations, some of the most critical provisions supported by our Coalition include the measures listed at the end of this letter.

As you know, the current domestic energy renaissance has set the U.S. on the road to energy independence. With the right policies from Washington, the Great Lakes region can further build on U.S. leadership in energy and manufacturing.

The Coalition supports enactment of the energy bill by the end of the year, and we look forward to working closely with you in the 115th Congress to build on this legislation.

If you have questions, please contact me at bwilliam@detroitchamber.com or 313-596-0349.

Sincerely,



Brad Williams
Executive Director, GLMCC

Members of the Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition

- Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Allegheny Conference
- Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce
- Buffalo Niagara Partnership
- Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
- Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
- Columbus Chamber of Commerce
- Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
- Detroit Regional Chamber
- Duluth Chamber of Commerce
- Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership
- Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Cleveland Partnership
- Greater Des Moines Partnership
- Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Louisville Inc. – The Metro Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce
- Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce
- Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce
- Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce
- Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance
- Plattsburgh North Country Chamber of Commerce
- Quad Cities Chamber
- Rockford Chamber of Commerce
- Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
- Southwest Michigan First
- Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce
- Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce

**GREAT LAKES METRO CHAMBERS COALITION
ENERGY BILL PRIORITIES**

S. 2012

- ***Electric Grid Modernization/Reliability Provisions*** – Requires agencies to consider the reliability impacts of a proposed rule before it is adopted, enabling federal regulators to conduct reviews of the nation’s interconnected electric grid. This strengthens our electrical grid from the potential harmful impacts of uncoordinated federal regulations.
- ***Energy Workforce Pilot Grant Program*** – Instructs the Secretary of Energy to set up a job training pilot program for energy workforce and authorizes \$20 million to be appropriated.
- ***21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board*** – Instructs the Secretary to establish a 21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board to develop a strategy for the support and development of a skilled energy workforce.
- ***Liquefied Natural Gas Permitting*** – Requires the Secretary to make a decision on any LNG export application within 45 days after completion of environmental review.
- ***Ethane Storage Study*** – Directs the Secretary of Energy to make a decision on any LNG export application within 45 days after completion of environmental review.
- ***Grid Storage*** – Directs the Secretary to conduct a research, development, and demonstration program for electric grid energy storage to address challenges identified in the 2013 Department of Energy (DOE) Strategic Plan for Grid Energy Storage and to establish a grant program to carry out eligible projects related to the modernization of the electric grid.
- ***Energy Efficiency*** – Directs DOE to encourage and support the deployment of energy efficient strategies to manufacturers, state and local governments, and promotes various certification processes.
- ***Hydropower Improvements*** – Ensures that federal permitting decisions for new hydropower projects are made in a timely manner to reduce unnecessary delays and costs. The reforms in this measure will help encourage potential hydropower projects in the Great Lakes region.
- ***Energy-Water Nexus*** – Promotes collaboration between the public and private sectors to promote new technologies that increase efficiency and better management of water resources. Because of the Great Lakes’ position as the fresh water capital of the United States, our region stands to benefit from further research into water resources.

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- ***Code Maintenance*** – Cleans up the U.S. Code by repealing many of DOE’s redundant, overlapping, and outdated authorities. This will help federal activities align with our current priorities, not with obsolete instructions from decades past.
 - ***Carbon Capture & Storage*** – Establishes a coal technology program for the purpose of ensuring the continued use of coal through improvements in efficiency, effectiveness, cost, and environmental performance.
 - ***Fusion & Fission Reactor Prototypes*** – Requires DOE to submit a report to Congress that assesses its capability to host privately-funded fusion and fission reactor prototypes at DOE-owned sites.
 - ***Next Generation Nuclear Plant Project*** – Removes the requirement that the Next Generation Nuclear Plant be built in a specific state.

H.R. 8

- ***Ethane Storage Study*** – Directs the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with other relevant agencies and stakeholders, to conduct a study on the feasibility of establishing an ethane storage and distribution hub in the United States.
- ***FERC Process Coordination*** – Reinforces the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) role as the lead federal agency for siting interstate natural gas pipelines. This section would require FERC to identify all agencies considering an aspect of an application and set the schedule for review, including a deadline for a final decision.
- ***Energy Security Valuation*** – Directs the Secretary of Energy to establish U.S. energy security valuation methods to ensure that energy-related actions that significantly affect the supply, distribution, or use of energy are evaluated with respect to their potential impact on energy security, including their impact on consumers and the economy; energy supply, diversity and resiliency; well-functioning and competitive energy markets; United States trade balance; and national security objectives.
- ***Resolving Environmental and Grid reliability Conflicts*** – Resolves a conflict between the Federal Power Act and environmental laws and regulations in order to avoid forcing electric generators from choosing between complying with an emergency order from the Department of Energy (DOE) and violating an environmental obligation.