

June 13, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bishop  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1324 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bishop:

On behalf of the Large Public Power Council (LPPC), I am writing in support of H.R. 1873, the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act. LPPC is appreciative of your efforts to advance H.R. 1873 as enactment of this legislation remains very important to our members.

Founded in 1987, LPPC represents 26 of the nation's largest public power systems. LPPC members are locally governed and directly accountable to consumers. All of our members are not-for-profit entities committed to reliability, affordability and environmental stewardship for the consumers and communities we serve. Our members operate in 12 states and the territory of Puerto Rico and provide reliable, low-cost power to more than 30 million people—about 10 percent of the U.S. population. This includes tens of thousands of large and small businesses in some of the fastest-growing urban and rural residential and commercial markets in America.

Importantly, LPPC members must strictly comply with the Reliability Standards established by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) under the authority of Section 215 of the Federal Power Act, including those standards relating to vegetation management on transmission line rights of way. In addition to decreasing safety risks, our members manage these issues to avoid violations of Reliability Standards that may lead to penalties or sanctions up to \$1 million per day per violation.

The changes proposed in H.R. 1873 are much needed. Among other things, adding Section 512 to the existing regulatory system would allow utilities to more efficiently remove hazardous trees and other vegetation. The bill would also make it incrementally less difficult for our member utilities to comply with the important requirements of NERC Standard for Transmission Vegetation Management (FAC-003-3). FAC-003-3 establishes requirements on managing vegetation located on transmission line rights of way as well as minimizing encroachments from “hazard trees” located adjacent to the rights of way, all with the important purpose of minimizing vegetation-related outages.

Our member utilities are committed to complying with the requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act as well as with the applicable Reliability Standards established by NERC, while providing affordable, reliable electric energy to our customers. H.R. 1873

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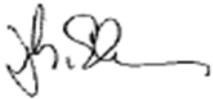
**LARGE PUBLIC POWER COUNCIL MEMBER COMPANIES**

Austin Energy / Chelan County PUD No.1 / Clark Public Utilities / Colorado Springs Utilities / CPS Energy / Electricities of NC, Inc. / Grand River Dam Authority  
Grant County PUD / Imperial Irrigation District / JEA / Long Island Power Authority / Los Angeles Department of Water & Power / Lower Colorado River Authority  
MEAG Power / Nebraska Public Power District / New York Power Authority / Omaha Public Power District / Orlando Utilities Commission / Platte River Power Authority  
Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority / SMUD / Salt River Project / Santee Cooper / Seattle City Light / Snohomish County PUD No.1 / Tacoma Public Utilities

provides for common-sense updates to requirements for managing vegetation located near our systems.

Again, thank you for your efforts, and LPPC looks forward to working with you as H.R. 1873 advances through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



John Di Stasio, President  
Large Public Power Council

CC: The Honorable Doug LaMalfa  
The Honorable Kurt Schrader

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