

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on  
Energy & Natural Resources  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on  
Energy & Natural Resources  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

May 28, 2015

Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

We are writing to express our support for the Clean Energy Grid Integration Act (S. 1201). We are grateful for Senator Shaheen's leadership in expanding opportunities for clean and efficient distributed generation and we are hopeful that this provision will be incorporated into the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resource's forthcoming energy package. We believe that the Clean Energy Grid Integration Act will help make the U.S. electric grid more resilient, provide flexibility to U.S. electricity customers, and reduce emissions. The undersigned businesses and organizations represent end users, developers, and installers for a variety of distributed-generation technologies that will benefit from this legislation.

Centralized power generation is costly and difficult to locate. Clean and efficient, distributed generation sources can be deployed at a fraction of the cost, enabling the grid to be more resilient. This is particularly true in the case of energy sources that can function independent of the grid, providing enhanced reliability during extreme weather events, which may compromise central power plants. Distributed generation is also more efficient and avoids line losses associated with the transmission and distribution of centralized electricity. By investing in distributed generation, we can avoid costly upgrades to transmission and distribution infrastructure.

Consumers should have the freedom to choose the type of energy that powers their homes and businesses. Unfortunately, a variety of barriers, like complicated and burdensome interconnection procedures, prevent distributed energy sources from reaching their potential. The Clean Energy Grid Integration Act helps identify and overcome these barriers, so that the U.S. electricity system can be more diverse and resilient.

The Clean Energy Grid Integration Act reports on the status of grid integration and examines barriers that are limiting distributed generation sources from successfully connecting to the grid. It then establishes a stakeholder working group to determine the most appropriate way to overcome these barriers and provides competitive grants to states to demonstrate best practices for successfully integrating clean, distributed energy sources into the electricity grid. This low-cost approach identifies a problem and provides incentives for states to determine the best way to overcome it. It does not place any mandates on states or utilities.

We look forward to helping this important legislation become law and in continuing to work with your office to explore – and overcome - barriers to deploying the clean, efficient and renewable technologies represented by our businesses and organizations.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Industrial Efficiency  
*Jennifer Kefer, Executive Director*

Alliance to Save Energy (ASE)  
*Brad Penney, Interim Director of Gov't Relations*

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy  
*R. Neal Elliott, Assoc. Director for Research*

Biomass Thermal Energy Council (BTEC)  
*Joseph Seymour, Executive Director*

Conservation Services Group  
*Pat Stanton, SVP Policy & Advocacy*

Environmental Defense Fund  
*Elizabeth Thompson, Vice President, U.S. Climate & Political Affairs*

Heat is Power Association (HiP)  
*Susan Brodie, Executive Director*

International District Energy Association (IDEA)  
*Robert Thornton, President & CEO*

Midwest Cogeneration Association  
*Patricia Sharkey, Policy Director*

National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO)  
*Donald Gilligan, President*

National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)  
*Marco Giamberardino, Executive Director, Government Affairs*

The Pew Charitable Trusts  
*Phyllis Cuttino, Director, Clean Energy Initiative*

Primary Energy

*John D. Prunkl, President & CEO*

Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractor's National Association (SMACNA)  
*Stan Kolbe, Director Government Relations*

Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) International Association  
*Joseph Sellers, General President*

The Association of Union Constructors (TAUC)  
*Stephen R. Lindauer, CEO*

Unilever  
*Mark Bescher, Government Relations*

United Steelworkers  
*Holly R. Hart, Legislative Director*

Veolia North America  
*Elinor Haider, Vice President, Market Development*