

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Catherine Jereza
Assistant Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

July 23, 2026

Dear Assistant Secretary Jereza,

I am writing in support of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's (PUCO) application to the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Electricity for the Speed to Power through Accelerated Reconductoring and other Key Advanced Transmission Technology Upgrades (SPARK), DE-FOA-0003580. The Ohio SPARK program would enable large-scale, rapidly deployable grid modernization to expand transmission capacity using advanced conductors, dynamic line ratings, and advanced power flow control technologies.

Ohio is a key hub for multi-directional power transfer within the PJM Interconnection region and faces many of the nation's grid challenges. With rising electricity demand, Ohio must add capacity quickly to help ensure reliability. Ohio SPARK meets this need by maximizing existing infrastructure, replacing aging assets, reducing congestion, and unlocking constrained capacity.

Ohio has been a national leader in manufacturing, energy, and industrial growth, and has taken steps to ensure its electric grid supports ongoing economic development. In 2025, the Ohio General Assembly enacted a statutory requirement for the PUCO to study and hold workshops on advanced transmission technologies. This application is a timely continuation of these efforts. The project's intended subrecipients, AEP Transmission Company, LLC, American Transmission Systems, Inc., and The Dayton Power & Light Company (AES Ohio), serve critical parts of Ohio's transmission network. It's our understanding that key technology partners for Ohio SPARK provide Buy America, Build America-compliant solutions. Together, these partners will deliver a domestic, scalable solution to increase grid capacity without the lengthy delays associated with new large-scale transmission.

Ohio SPARK aligns with the SPARK program's goals: strengthening grid reliability and resilience, expanding power transfer using existing infrastructure, improving flexibility, reducing disruptions, and lowering consumer costs. While individual utilities may use advanced transmission technologies on specific corridors, Ohio SPARK's full value comes from coordinated, statewide implementation that enhances grid intelligence and flexibility. DOE support would accelerate deployment and lower expenses for Ohio ratepayers.

As the Department of Energy's Office of Electricity continues to work to meet electricity demand growth and resource adequacy requirements, we respectfully request your consideration of the PUCO's Ohio SPARK application.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Energy



Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



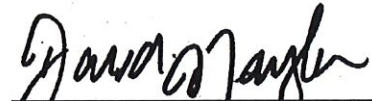
Michael A. Rulli
Member of Congress



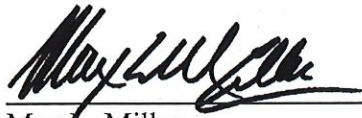
Mike Carey
Member of Congress



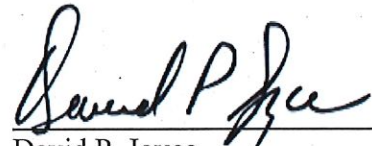
Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



David J. Taylor
Member of Congress



Max L. Miller
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Warren Davidson

Member of Congress