

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 1, 2017

Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Nita M. Lowey  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

As you finalize work on a supplemental appropriations bill to address recent disasters, including fires in the West and hurricanes in the southeast, we encourage you to include language that supports the use of resilient technologies that can be deployed across the nation's electric grid.

The electrical power grid is the backbone of the U.S. economy and society, and a reliable grid is fundamental to our day-to-day functionality and to our national security. Although much has been done to modernize the electric grid, more must be done, particularly as it relates to system resilience.

Millions of Americans are enduring the aftermath of recent wildfires and hurricanes, trying to piece back together their homes and their lives, often with an unpredictable time frame for a solution. And while we can never fully prevent or mitigate the damage caused by natural disasters, we must focus on forward-thinking solutions that prioritize grid modernization efforts that secure our energy grid against future challenges.

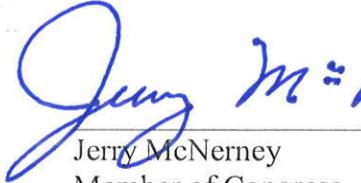
The United States is experiencing extreme weather events that can significantly impact resilience and reliability, including heat waves, drought, superstorms, and wildfires. According to data from the Department of Energy, outages increased ten-fold from 1984 to 2012 and doubled from 2003 to 2014 due to extreme weather. Between 2003 and 2012, weather related power outages cost the United States an average of \$18 billion to \$33 billion annually.

During times of natural disaster the significance and necessity of the American energy grid is evident in every way, and presents us the ability to emphasize the importance of incorporating resiliency when rebuilding our grid. We encourage you to include language in supplemental appropriations bills to provide that funding should, to the extent practicable, utilize technologies to mitigate future outages and enhance resiliency of the electric grid rather than simply rebuilding to pre-event conditions.

Public-private partnerships have proven essential to grid modernization, and additional cooperation between federal, state, and local governments is essential to protecting Americans and our nation's infrastructure. Making smart investments now will not only save taxpayer money in the long-term, but also improve the quality of life for Americans across the country.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. We look forward to continue working with you to ensure a reliable, resilient, and affordable electric grid for our constituents.

Sincerely,

  
Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

  
Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress