Principles for American Energy Abundance

A Coalition Letter to Governors and State Legislators

November 17, 2026

Dear Governors and State Legislators:

America is entering a period of extraordinary electricity demand—and extraordinary opportunity. Advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, data centers, reshoring, and emerging technologies have the potential to drive a new era of American economic growth, innovation, and prosperity. Realizing that opportunity will require one foundational input: abundant, affordable, and reliable energy.

The stakes extend well beyond the electric grid. Greater energy abundance can strengthen American competitiveness and national security, attract investment and manufacturing, support technological leadership, create jobs and economic opportunity, improve reliability, and put downward pressure on electricity costs for families and businesses.

Increasingly, this is also a bipartisan goal. Across the political spectrum, policymakers are recognizing that America must build again—and that an electricity system constrained by slow permitting, insufficient infrastructure, outdated regulations, and barriers to innovation cannot support the growth the country needs. The question is increasingly not whether America needs more energy, but how we build it quickly, affordably, and responsibly.

States have a critical role to play. Governors and legislators can modernize permitting, remove barriers to new generation, improve the productivity of existing infrastructure, encourage private investment and competition, and protect consumers from unnecessary costs.

We believe state energy policy should pursue a straightforward objective: enable more reliable and affordable electricity to be produced and delivered faster, while giving consumers, markets, and innovators greater freedom to determine how.

To achieve that objective, we encourage state leaders to advance policies consistent with the following principles:

Make permitting fast, predictable, and accountable.

Establish transparent permitting processes with firm deadlines for government decisions. Expand expedited and permit-by-rule pathways where appropriate, and allow qualified third parties to conduct reviews and inspections, where appropriate, when agencies cannot meet established timelines, with the government agency retaining sole authority over permit approvals and denials. Permitting should protect health, safety, property rights, and the environment without imposing unnecessary delay and uncertainty. These approaches build on existing state-level models for permitting certainty, third-party review, and deemed approvals.

Remove unnecessary barriers to new energy supply.

Allow technologies to compete based on their ability to provide reliable and affordable energy rather than government preference. States should remove unnecessary prohibitions and moratoria, accelerate interconnection, and enable surplus interconnection so additional resources can make productive use of existing grid infrastructure.

Get more from the grid we already have.

Remove barriers to cost-effective technologies that increase the capacity and productivity of existing infrastructure, including grid-enhancing technologies, advanced conductors, storage, and advanced distribution technologies. These technologies warrant particular consideration because they can improve the utilization and cost-effectiveness of existing infrastructure and generation resources regardless of technology or fuel source. Regulatory structures should not disadvantage innovative solutions simply because they require less capital investment.

Build transmission competitively and protect consumers.

Strengthen long-term transmission planning and ensure identified needs translate into timely construction. Encourage competitive procurement, merchant transmission, and other market-based approaches where appropriate. Transmission investments should demonstrate reliability or economic value, and costs should follow the beneficiary-pays principle, with customers bearing costs in reasonable proportion to the benefits they receive.

Give customers greater freedom to meet their own energy needs.

Customers should have greater freedom to generate, store, procure, and manage their own electricity. Households and businesses should be able to pursue distributed generation, storage, microgrids, and other alternatives, while large customers should also be able to bring their own power, procure generation from third parties, and pursue consumer-regulated or off-grid energy arrangements. These options should be available when they can be pursued safely and without shifting costs or risks to captive ratepayers. Customers using the regulated grid should pay the incremental costs reasonably attributable to serving them. Freedom to meet your own energy needs should come with responsibility to pay your own way.

Make electricity demand part of the solution.

Enable flexible grid connections and rate structures that reward customers for reducing system costs and improving reliability. All generation, storage, and demand-side resources should have opportunities to compete when they can provide measurable value to the grid.

Preserve competition and make room for innovation.

Clearly define the appropriate role of utilities while expanding opportunities for private investment and competitive providers. Market rules should value resources based on the services they provide rather than favoring particular technologies or business models. Unnecessary regulatory barriers preventing private capital from investing in energy infrastructure should be identified and removed.

America does not need policymakers to predict which technologies will power the next generation of prosperity. It needs a policy environment in which technologies can compete, infrastructure can be built, private capital can invest, customers can innovate, and consumers are protected.

We encourage state leaders of both parties to embrace a simple governing philosophy: build faster, use what we have better, let customers innovate, make beneficiaries pay, protect consumers, and let technologies compete.

Energy abundance is not an end in itself. It is a foundation for what comes next: lower costs, greater economic growth, stronger communities, American technological leadership, increased manufacturing, improved national security, and a more prosperous future.

Sincerely,

Signatories

Principles for American Energy Abundance

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Signatory Logos

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