



August 3, 2015

DAVID A. RAYMOND
PRESIDENT & CEO

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Committee Energy and Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Murkowski and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) – the business association of the nation’s engineering industry – I want to convey our organization’s strong support for the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015.

ACEC members are actively engaged in every aspect of the energy marketplace, from the development of nuclear, fossil and renewable energy sources to storage, transmission and distribution issues and the design of energy efficient buildings. The Council supports a comprehensive approach to addressing the nation’s energy needs in the future, and we believe your legislation is a critical step forward in achieving this objective.

The Act puts proper emphasis on modernizing and protecting the nation’s energy infrastructure, including provisions to enhance grid security, improve the management of Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and develop new technologies and operational models of integrated electricity storage, distributed generation, and micro-grids.

ACEC supports the bill’s emphasis on efficient and effective project execution through better interagency coordination of project permit reviews and the streamlined permitting processes for approvals necessary for international trade in natural gas. At the same time, the bill includes balanced policies to promote renewable energy sources and achieve greater energy efficiency in public buildings.

ACEC believes the bill’s language establishing an interagency coordinating committee, co-chaired by the Secretaries of Energy and the Interior, to focus on the “energy-water nexus”, is a particularly important step to enhance the coordination of the nation’s water and energy policies.

We commend you for the bipartisan approach taken in developing and moving this important legislation, and we look forward to working with you on additional initiatives that will expand the development and use of America’s energy resources.

Sincerely,