



DAVID A. RAYMOND
PRESIDENT & CEO

February 4, 2016

Dear Senator:

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.

ACEC members are actively engaged in every aspect of the energy marketplace, including development of nuclear, fossil and renewable energy resources as well as storage, transmission, and distribution and the design of energy efficient buildings. The Council supports a comprehensive approach to addressing the nation’s energy needs, and we believe this legislation is a critical and positive step forward to achieving that goal.

The Act places proper emphasis on modernizing and protecting the nation’s energy infrastructure by including provisions to enhance grid security, improve the management of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and develop new technologies and operational models of integrated electricity storage, distributed generation, and micro-grids. Notably, the bill includes balanced policies to promote renewable energy resources and achieve greater energy efficiency in public buildings.

ACEC supports the bill’s emphasis on efficient and effective project execution through better interagency coordination or project permit reviews and the streamlined permitting processes for approvals necessary for international trade in natural gas. The bill’s language to establish 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 coordination of national water and energy policies.

We commend you for the bipartisan approach taken in developing and moving this legislation and trust it will continue through enactment. We also look forward to working with you on additional initiatives that will expand development and use of America’s energy resources.

Sincerely,