



Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition

April 14, 2016

Dear Great Lakes Senators:

On behalf of the Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition (GLMCC) – composed of nearly 40 chambers of commerce in the Great Lakes states – we are writing to reiterate our support for the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2015 (S. 2012). The Great Lakes Region is one of the world’s most important economic engines, covering all or parts of twelve states and two Canadian provinces. If our region was a nation, it would be the third largest economy in the world with a combined gross domestic product of more than \$5.7 trillion powered by one of the most dynamic advanced manufacturing sectors in the world. Reliable sources of base load energy and transmission are the foundation of the Great Lakes manufacturing leadership and a prime source of our competitive advantage in the global economy.

S. 2012 will further increase our region’s competitiveness. The bill begins to address a number of our Great Lakes states’ policy concerns, most notably electric grid reliability and energy workforce readiness. Some of the most critical provisions supported by our Coalition include the measures below.

- ***Electric Grid Modernization/Reliability Provisions*** –Requires agencies to consider the reliability impacts of a proposed rule before it is adopted, enabling federal regulators to conduct reviews of the nation’s interconnected electric grid. This strengthens our electrical grid from the potential harmful impacts of uncoordinated federal regulations.
- ***Energy Workforce Pilot Grant Program*** – Instructs the Secretary of Energy to set up a job training pilot program for energy workforce and authorizes \$20 million to be appropriated.
- ***21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board*** – Instructs the Secretary to establish a 21st Century Energy Workforce Advisory Board to develop a strategy for the support and development of a skilled energy workforce.

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- ***Liquefied Natural Gas Permitting*** – Requires the Secretary to make a decision on any LNG export application within 45 days after completion of environmental review.
 - ***Grid Storage*** – Directs the Secretary to conduct a research, development, and demonstration program for electric grid energy storage to address challenges identified in the 2013 Department of Energy (DOE) Strategic Plan for Grid Energy Storage and to establish a grant program to carry out eligible projects related to the modernization of the electric grid.
 - ***Energy Efficiency*** – Directs DOE to encourage and support the deployment of energy efficient strategies to manufacturers, state and local governments, and promotes various certification processes.
 - ***Hydropower Improvements*** – Ensures that federal permitting decisions for new hydropower projects are made in a timely manner to reduce unnecessary delays and costs. The reforms in this measure will help encourage potential hydropower projects in our region.
 - ***Energy-Water Nexus*** – Promotes collaboration between the public and private sectors to promote new technologies that increase efficiency and better management of water resources. Because of the Great Lakes' position as the fresh water capital of the United States, our region stands to benefit from further research into water resources.
 - ***Code Maintenance*** – Cleans up the U.S. Code by repealing many of DOE's redundant, overlapping, and outdated authorities. This will help federal activities align with our current priorities, not with obsolete instructions from decades past.
 - ***Carbon Capture & Storage*** – Establishes a coal technology program for the purpose of ensuring the continued use of coal through improvements in efficiency, effectiveness, cost, and environmental performance.

Our Great Lakes Congressional members must stick together on these issues of critical importance. The current domestic energy renaissance has set the U.S. on the road to energy independence and opened a unique window of opportunity for the Great Lakes/Midwest region as a primary power producer. With the right policies from Washington, our region can further build on our leadership in energy and manufacturing. S. 2012 is the right policy at the right time for our Great Lakes region.

The Coalition asks that you work with your colleagues to move this policy across the finish line and to complete an expeditious, productive conference process with the House that will result in a strong, bi-partisan energy update.

If you have questions, please contact me at ewolking@detroitchamber.com or 313-596-0304.

Sincerely,



Ed Wolking, Jr.
Executive Director

Members of the Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition

Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber of Commerce
Allegheny Conference
Battle Creek Area Chamber of Commerce
Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber
Columbus Chamber of Commerce
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce
Detroit Regional Chamber
Duluth Chamber of Commerce
Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership
Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce
Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce
Greater Cleveland Partnership
Greater Des Moines Partnership
Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce
Greater Louisville Inc. – The Metro Chamber of Commerce
Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce
Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce
Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce
Michigan West Coast Chamber of Commerce
Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce
Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce
Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance
Plattsburgh North Country Chamber of Commerce
Quad Cities Chamber
Rockford Chamber of Commerce
Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce
Southwest Michigan First
Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce
Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce
Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber of Commerce