

January 22, 2024

The Honorable Willie L. Phillips
The Honorable Mark C. Christie
The Honorable Allison Clements

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: Docket No. RM21-17-000

Dear Chairman Phillips and Commissioners Christie and Clements:

As companies that are major drivers of the U.S. economy, we write to urge you to finalize a strong rule on *Building for the Future Through Electric Regional Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation and Generator Interconnection*, as soon as is practicable (Docket No. RM21-17-000). Collectively with \$7 trillion in U.S. revenues and 17 million employees nationwide, the undersigned companies need and will benefit from an expanded transmission system that will lower energy customer costs, improve reliability, and modernize our grid to meet growing demand across the country, so the United States is positioned to capture innovation, growth, and jobs.

Our energy system is the backbone of the nation's economy. Fundamentally, our electricity transmission system must keep pace with the need to connect and transfer power from new and existing generation resources, not just to keep the lights on and costs down, but to meet significantly growing demand across expanding and innovative industries due to reshoring of manufacturing; electrification across transport, industry, and buildings; development of data centers to power a data-driven economy; and new, electricity-intensive technologies like hydrogen production.

The undersigned energy customers want to power our operations with affordable, reliable, and clean energy. Expanded transmission is critical to meet all these needs. The ability to move least-cost power to load reduces customer power costs. The ability to share lower-cost, available power during extreme weather reduces customer power costs while supporting reliability and grid stability. A modernized, expanded grid that can interconnect diverse, clean, low-cost resources underpins economic growth. Finalizing a robust transmission planning and cost allocation rule is needed to unlock these benefits.

As large electricity customers, we are experiencing transmission bottlenecks across the country that slow the expansion of a cleaner, more cost-effective grid. These bottlenecks include pauses or delays in connecting new load, increased transmission congestion and curtailment costs, and uncertainty and rising costs for hundreds of gigawatts of needed new generation sources backlogged in interconnection queues behind transmission constraints.

Increasing reliability events from extreme weather come at a huge cost to all power consumers. Many of our businesses cannot grow without more clean generation resources, moved cost-efficiently with transmission. States may miss out on economic growth opportunities without sufficient grid capacity and access to the types of generation resources needed to attract growing and innovative industries. Customer savings are left on the table if we do not proactively plan for transmission with

comprehensive, long-term planning that can effectively optimize a portfolio of investments for cost and reliability benefits to customers.

We thank FERC for its extensive work to develop the proposed rule. Now is the time for FERC to finalize a forward-looking rule that can set this nation on the course to a more resilient, expanded electric grid capable of meeting the demands and opportunities of coming years and decades. Ensuring we modernize and expand our grid while shoring up reliability and reducing power costs through well-planned and well-justified transmission is paramount to enabling economic growth and American energy leadership.

We stand ready to support you in finalizing a meaningful regional transmission and cost allocation planning rule.

Signed,

1. Akamai Technologies, Inc.
2. Amazon.com, Inc.
3. Amy's Kitchen, Inc.
4. Apple, Inc.
5. Applied Materials, Inc.
6. ARC Homes
7. Atlassian Corporation
8. Autodesk, Inc.
9. BASF Corporation
10. Best Buy Co., Inc.
11. Brookfield Properties
12. Budderfly, Inc.
13. Build Efficiently, LLC.
14. Cargill, Inc.
15. Clean Energy Buyers Association
16. Eastman Chemical Company
17. eBay, Inc.
18. Equinix, Inc.
19. Freeport-McMoRan, Inc.
20. General Motors LLC
21. Google LLC
22. Green Impact Technologies
23. Hewlett Packard Enterprise Company
24. Humanscale Corporation
25. IHG Hotels & Resorts
26. Marriott International, Inc.
27. Mars, Inc.
28. Meta Platforms, Inc.
29. Microsoft Corporation
30. Monarch Energy
31. Nike, Inc.

32. Nucor Corporation
33. Oatly Group AB
34. PepsiCo, Inc.
35. Prologis, Inc.
36. Rivian Automotive, Inc.
37. Saint-Gobain North America
38. Salesforce, Inc.
39. Schneider Electric SE
40. Target Corporation
41. Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.
42. The STAAC Group, LLC.
43. Walmart, Inc.
44. Workday, Inc.
45. World Energy, LLC