

Advancing Grid-Enhancing Technologies (GETs) Act

Introduced in the Senate by: Senators Peter Welch (D-Vt.); Angus King (I-Maine)

Led in the House by: Representative Kathy Castor (D-FL-14)

Background: The <u>rapid progression</u> of climate change has resulted in higher household energy prices and <u>increased electricity demand</u> across the United States. To effectively mitigate the impacts of climate change and meet goals for economic growth, the U.S. must urgently drive down greenhouse emissions by boosting transmission capacity. Increasing <u>nationwide</u> <u>transmission capacity</u> is vital as grid operators frequently struggle to find space on the grid needed to bring new clean energy projects online, resulting in time-consuming interconnection processes, project delays, and higher energy costs for ratepayers.

GETs provide crucial opportunities to upgrade America's aging infrastructure by enabling grid operators to more dynamically manage the flow of electricity and increase <u>cost-effective capacity</u> of existing infrastructure. However, current financial incentives have proven inadequate in encouraging developers to implement GETs. Currently, utilities see guaranteed returns on investment for building larger, expensive infrastructure such as new transmission lines and power generation plants, but get little or no return for targeted, cost-saving investments like GETs.

Legislation: The Advancing Grid-Enhancing Technologies Act would increase U.S. grid capacity by requiring the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to establish an <u>incentive that splits savings</u> generated by GETs implementation between the installer and ratepayers. The legislation would motivate developers to invest in GETs by rewarding deployment of GETs projects that result in savings of at least four times their upfront cost and deliver a net benefit to ratepayers.

Additionally, the *Advancing GETs Act* includes an annual reporting requirement that directs transmission owners to report costs associated with congestion to FERC and directs the Commission to analyze and make this data available to the public. The legislation also charges the Department of Energy with creating an application guide for implementing GETs projects, providing technical assistance to stakeholders interested in GETs, and managing a clearinghouse with examples of GETs projects.

Supporting Organizations: The *Advancing GETs Act* is endorsed by the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), Electricity Consumers Resource Council, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, Solar Energy Industries Association, and the WATT Coalition.