



Supporting Transformative Resilience, Operations, and Next-Generation Grid Innovation Deployment (STRONG GRID) Act

Introduced By: Senator Peter Welch (D-Vt.)

Background: Extreme weather events are growing more frequent and intense. From wildfires to floods, hurricanes to tornadoes, Americans across the country experienced firsthand the devastation extreme weather brings to their communities. In 2025, the United States suffered 23 “billion-dollar disasters” that collectively cost more than [\\$115 billion](#), marking the third highest year on record behind 2023 and 2024. Natural Disasters also cause widespread damage to critical infrastructure such as the electric grid, knocking out transformers, taking down wires, and threatening blackouts. Utilities then pass these recovery costs along to ratepayers; researchers found that households are spending on average [\\$35 more per year](#) on their electricity bill as a result.

At the same time, America's electric grid is under immense strain. Forecasts suggest that U.S. electricity demand could increase by as much as [5.7%](#) through 2030, a level of growth not seen since the [1960s](#). Peaks in electricity consumption during the hottest or coldest days of the year could leave us ill-equipped to meet this surge in demand, especially when disaster strikes. Strengthening the resilience of the electric grid will keep essential services online and reduce the economic impact of future natural disasters.

Microgrids: A microgrid is a localized electric grid with its own electricity generation, storage, and distribution infrastructure. By operating independent of the broader electric grid, microgrids can help prevent power disruptions caused by natural disasters. Their benefits extend beyond resilience. Under normal conditions, on-site distributed energy resources (DERs) can lower energy costs, provide ancillary services to the grid, reduce transmission and distribution losses, and allow operators to more effectively manage the grid.

Legislation: The *STRONG GRID* Act enhances electric grid resilience, promotes innovative grid deployment, and lowers barriers to microgrid adoption by encouraging state regulators to adopt a clear methodology for quantifying the resilience benefits used to justify utility investments and streamline the interconnection process for microgrids. The legislation would also make microgrids and DERs eligible for funding under State Energy Program (SEP) grants, in addition to establishing state-run Electric Grid Resilience Programs to support the deployment of microgrids and DERs, from initial feasibility studies to construction and operation.

The legislation provides expert technical assistance to utilities, regulators, state governments, and other stakeholders carrying out resilience projects and creates a pilot program within the Department of Energy to demonstrate innovative grid solutions and microgrid applications across the country.

Supporting Organizations: The *STRONG GRID* Act is endorsed by the GridWise Alliance; Honeywell Technologies; Information Technology Industry Council (ITI); National Association of Electrical Distributors (NAED); National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO); and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA).