



American Electric Power
1 Riverside Plaza
Columbus, OH 43215-2373
AEP.com

Michael G. Morris
Chairman of the Board
President and
Chief Executive Officer

614-716-1100

September 9, 2011

Dr. Steven Chu
Secretary, Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585
Sent via e-mail c/o: Lauren.Azar@hq.doe.gov

Dear Secretary Chu:

American Electric Power strongly supports the proposed delegation by the Department of Energy (DOE) to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) of authority to conduct congestion studies and designate corridors for interstate electric transmission projects.

Effective implementation of federal backstop siting authority will facilitate construction of the transmission necessary to maintain and grow our national economy. Through this routine delegation, the separate authorities granted to DOE and FERC are combined to improve the efficiency of the federal process and avoid the political difficulties inherent in large corridor designations. This delegation also takes advantage of the longstanding relationships between state utility commissions and the FERC.

If I or my staff may be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael G. Morris'.

Michael G. Morris
Chairman and CEO
American Electric Power