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February 17, 2026

House Commerce Committee
Select Subcommittee
Iowa House of Representatives
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Re: Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) Comments on HF 2283

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on HF 2283, an act relating to grid-enhancing technologies and reconductoring.

The Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) is a member-based, nonprofit organization promoting energy efficiency to optimize energy generation, reduce consumption, create jobs and decrease carbon emissions in all Midwest communities. Our members include energy efficiency-related businesses, manufacturers, local governments, utilities, academic institutions, researchers and advocacy groups. MEEA engages in energy efficiency policy and programs in 13 Midwest states, including Iowa, where 53 of our 170+ members are headquartered or operating.

MEEA sees energy efficiency as the least-cost foundation of the clean energy economy, creating immediate energy savings, reducing utility costs and emissions, improving public health and grid resiliency, and lowering energy bills. We appreciate the opportunity to highlight the benefits of energy efficiency with this bill in front of you. While energy efficiency has traditionally referred to utility-run programs, as well as federal and state efforts around weatherization and home retrofits, we have begun to consider how to make our grid more efficient as well. This will become all the more important as conversations around demand continue to intensify. Iowa, like many Midwestern states, will need to find creative solutions to this increased demand that will come from the construction and operation of data centers and reshored manufacturing. One way to mitigate the potential negative impacts from this increased load is to better utilize the existing grid infrastructure we already have.

Making Our Grid More Efficient

Grid-enhancing technologies (GETs) encompass a broad array of technologies, including Dynamic Line Rating Systems, Power Flow Control Systems and Topology Optimization. These three technologies work together to create cost savings and increase flexibility and resiliency far faster than traditional grid expansion. Across the

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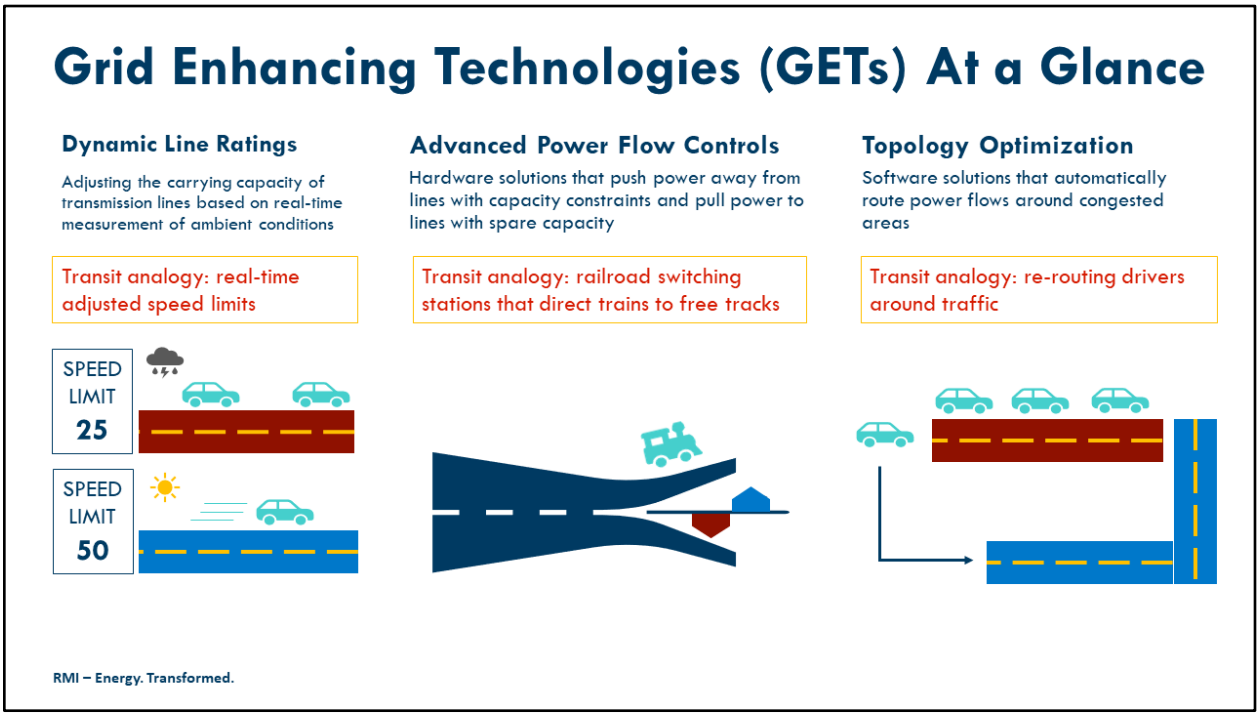
country, grid constraints cost the U.S. billions of dollars every year, as congestion can limit new growth and cause reliability issues. As demand grows and pressures to build and expand generation increase, the transmission system needs major renovations to keep up. While traditional transmission upgrades unlock additional capacity, they can take years to build and prove costly to ratepayers across the transmission system. GETs, on the other hand, can be deployed in months and often pay for themselves in less than a year.

Not only are GETs a faster and more cost-effective alternative to traditional transmission upgrades, but they provide grid operators with new tools for managing flexibility and reliability by unlocking the grid's dynamic capabilities. The image below helps demonstrate the impact of GETs, and the benefits of advanced monitoring and control on daily grid efficiency.



From Rocky Mountain Institute: https://rmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/gets-diagram.png

While the image above depicts the impact that GETs can have on alleviating everyday electron traffic congestion, GETs also provide grid operators with advanced tools to adapt to emergency situations and extreme weather events. In 2018, ISO-NE was able to avoid significant congestion costs (and potential outages) during a 13-day "Bomb Cyclone" by leveraging Dynamic Line Ratings to increase their transmission line ratings and allow more power to flow. GETs are one more tool to help ensure that our grid is resilient in times of uncertainty, especially as we continue to see increases in our peak demand usage.

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Grid Efficiency Legislation across the Midwest

Many states across the Midwest have adopted similar legislation to HF 2283, including Indiana, Ohio and Minnesota.

Indiana

In 2024, Indiana enacted SB 422 which requires the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) to issue a study on advanced transmission technologies (ATTs) by 2026, including the potential for ATTs to enable utilities to "safely, reliably, efficiently and cost-effectively meet electric system demand." The IURC will consider whether a particular technology does the following:

- Increases transmission capacity
- Increases transmission efficiency
- Reduces transmission congestion
- Reduces the curtailment of generation resources
- Increases system reliability
- Increases system resiliency
- Increases the capacity to connect new energy generation resources

SB 422 requires utilities to evaluate ATTs in their existing Integrated Resource Planning process. SB 422 also qualifies ATT investment as a capital expenditure eligible for cost recovery.

Ohio

In 2025, Ohio legislators enacted HB 15 which requires utilities to study congestion and propose ATTs to mitigate congestion impacts where cost-effective. Entities must analyze the cost-effectiveness of installing grid-enhancing technologies to address instances of congestion. Additionally, generation siting applications must report on the potential impact of the inclusion of ATTs.

HB 15 also requires the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to study the potential use and deployment of ATTs across the state. The PUCO must review and evaluate that ATTs were properly reported by utilities and approve ATT congestion mitigation implementation plans, including cost recovery. The PUCO must also adopt, for each electric distribution utility, a cost recovery mechanism relating to transmission, ancillary, congestion or any related service.

Minnesota

In 2024, Minnesota legislators passed an omnibus energy package, HF 5247, which included provisions on GETs. The legislation requires each utility, organization or company that owns or operates transmission lines to submit a report to the Public

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Utilities Commission (PUC) that lists present and reasonably foreseeable future inadequacies in the transmission system identifies if GETs can reduce congestion or enhance system flexibility at each inadequacy listed.

Additionally, the legislation mandates entities that own more than 750 miles of transmission lines in Minnesota submit a report that identifies locations that experienced the most congestion (or are likely to experience high levels of congestion in the next five years) and estimates the frequency of congestion at each location and the increased cost to ratepayers. Entities must also evaluate the technical feasibility and costs of installing GETs at these congested locations and analyze the cost-effectiveness of installing GETs by a methodology developed by the PUC. The report must also include a proposed implementation plan that includes a schedule and cost estimate to install GETs at these congestion points.

The legislation also allows the PUC to approve cost recovery with an appropriate rate of return on investments to implement grid-enhancing technologies.

While each state has approached advanced transmission technologies and grid-enhancing technologies slightly differently, these three states have taken critical steps forward towards evaluating potential transmission advancements and enabling a regulatory path towards future investment. Understanding the existing constraints on the system and crafting a framework to determine if GETs can mitigate some of the negative impacts caused by those constraints are reasonable first steps to exploring alternative pathways to solving the issue of increased demand, which is all but certain to intensify over the next coming decade.

Conclusion

As the region's premier advocate for energy efficiency, MEEA commends the state for considering grid-enhancing technologies as an innovative solution that all Iowa electric utilities, transmission operators and customers could benefit from. Our energy landscape is quickly changing due to increasing demand and our electricity providers, with partnership from regulators and advocates alike, are going to have to adopt new technologies to maintain affordability and reliability for all Iowa communities. MEEA sees GETs as a component in a portfolio of efficiency solutions that can relieve grid strain while equipping our energy providers with the tools they need to weather the storm ahead. MEEA remains committed to being a resource for Iowa legislators and regulators, and we welcome the opportunity to continue engagement on energy policy for the state moving forward.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions on these comments or would like to discuss energy efficiency policy further, please reach out to MEEA's Iowa state lead, Clara Stein, at cstein@mwalliance.org.

Sincerely,

Paige Knutsen, Executive Director

These comments reflect the views of the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance – a Regional Energy Efficiency Organization as designated by the U.S. Department of Energy – and not the organization's members or individual entities represented on our board of directors.