

May 20, 2014

The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu
Chairman
Homeland Security Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
135 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dan Coats
Ranking Member
Homeland Security Subcommittee
Committee on Appropriations
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Landrieu and Ranking Member Coats:

The American Public Power Association (APPA), the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) are partnering together to help safeguard our nation's electric power grid against cybersecurity and physical threats. Working with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other agencies, we are pursuing solutions at the national level to address the common challenges we share.

We write today to urge your support for one DHS initiative that is both voluntary and non-regulatory: the Regional Resiliency Assessment Program (RRAP). Through this program, electric power facility owners and operators, partnering with state and local officers, can enhance the resilience of facilities, surrounding communities and entire regions by making strategic and site-specific investments in equipment, planning, training and resources. While we understand the challenges in developing an appropriations bill in a constrained fiscal environment, we respectfully urge you to give high priority to the Department's RRAP as a means of better leveraging our national preparedness across public and private sectors.

The goal of the RRAP is to mitigate the nation's risk of loss of life and economic damage from natural and man-made hazards. This goal is achieved by:

- Assessing critical infrastructure on a regional level, focusing on vulnerabilities, threats and potential consequences from an all-hazards perspective.
- Identifying critical dependencies, interdependencies, cascading effects, and resilience characteristics and gaps.
- Assessing the status of the integrated preparedness and protection capabilities of critical infrastructure owners and operators, local law enforcement and emergency response organizations.
- Coordinating protection and response efforts to enhance resilience and address security gaps within a geographic region.

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Recently, one large energy provider participated in a RRAP assessment that included the DHS Office of Infrastructure Protection, the DHS National Cyber Security Division, the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and state and local authorities. In this year-long evaluation, assessments were conducted on operations centers, substations and power generation facilities located throughout four states. Today, this single assessment is responsible for uniform policies, approaches and methodologies that have integrated federal, state, and local infrastructure protection and risk management activities across sectors and partners throughout an entire region.

We appreciate your efforts in confronting our country's fiscal challenges and your prioritization of programs at DHS to protect our nation's critical infrastructure. As such, we believe that the Subcommittee's investment in RRAP should be prioritized as one that values cost savings and reinforces the electric industry's efforts to protect critical infrastructure. In this spirit, we urge your support for a higher level of Fiscal Year 2015 RRAP funding than has been recommended by the Administration. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Susan N. Kelly
President and CEO
American Public Power Association



Thomas R. Kuhn
President
Edison Electric Institute



Jo Ann Emerson
Chief Executive Officer
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association