

# IBEW

INTERNATIONAL  
BROTHERHOOD  
OF ELECTRICAL  
WORKERS



SEVENTH DISTRICT



**LONNIE R. STEPHENSON**  
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June 3, 2015

Dr. Ernest Moniz  
Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Electricity Delivery & Energy Reliability (OE-20), 1222 Program  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Supporting New Infrastructure Projects  
Creating More Jobs

Dear Secretary Moniz:

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) represents 720,000 members across our nation. I write today on behalf of those members to encourage you to approve the Plains & Eastern Clean Line High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission project.

The IBEW firmly believes comprehensive efforts in our nation are needed to build the grid that our society requires. Our markets and transmission planning efforts are currently inadequate for delivering renewable energy to consumers and transmission planning between various regional transmission organizations is often non-functional. Renewables and efficiency must be incorporated into the grid in an organized and fair manner that supports grid reliability. The reliability that customers expect requires upgrades and major new interregional transmission projects.

The construction of these transmission line projects and related power generation facilities will require thousands of workers. Once built, the new power generation facilities will require hundreds of employees to operate and maintain. IBEW local members rely on this type of work to provide for their families. They welcome the opportunity to help build and maintain critical infrastructure projects like the Plains & Eastern Clean Line.

A project requiring two years of construction work is very valuable to our local members who, when employed working on infrastructure projects, contribute to the local economy, pay taxes and support local businesses. These "temporary jobs" are important for our construction worker members, as every job they will have over their entire career is a "temporary job." Infrastructure projects also put other people to work by keeping factories humming and fostering growth in local communities.

Dr. Ernest Moniz

June 10, 2015

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These infrastructure investments will also help keep our electric bills low and provide a reliable supply of electricity for decades to come. The United States should make interstate electric transmission projects easier to build, not more difficult to complete. We ask the Department of Energy to approve the Plains & Eastern Clean Line.

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S M Speer', written in a cursive style.

Steven M. Speer  
International Vice President

SMS/lj

cc: Lonnie R. Stephenson, International President, IBEW  
Ray Kasmark, Director, IBEW