

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 4, 2023

The Honorable Willie Phillips, Chairman
The Honorable James Danly, Commissioner
The Honorable Allison Clements, Commissioner
The Honorable Mark Christie, Commissioner

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Chairman Phillips and Commissioners Danly, Clements, and Christie:

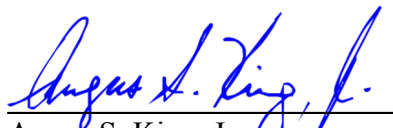
We write today to urge the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to appropriately support the use of Dynamic Line Ratings (DLR) in the American electric system. DLR is a well-established technology in other advanced economies and in increasingly wide use in Europe. Meanwhile, the United States' first market-integrated DLR deployment came online in 2022. Ensuring the affordability and reliability of our grid—and achieving our nation's climate goals—will require significant and smart investments; grid enhancing technologies (GETs) like DLR will have a major role to play.


FERC's removal of DLR from the list of alternative transmission technologies that must be studied in interconnection in Order No. 2023 is unfortunate. While DLR may not provide benefits at every hour of every day, a requirement to merely study DLR integration during an interconnection process may yield certain cases where the technology would be sufficient to avoid some more expensive upgrades. Indeed, generation developers have reported examples of projects that would clearly have benefited from DLR, potentially saving tens of millions of dollars in upgrade costs and years of construction. Lowering generator interconnection costs and shortening timelines ultimately benefits consumers through lower electricity costs.


As Commissioner Christie noted in his concurrence on Order No. 2023, FERC can move forward on establishing a rule for DLR beyond the interconnection context. In that vein, we encourage FERC to advance its Notice of Inquiry on the Implementation of Dynamic Line Ratings, the proposed implementation of shared savings incentives authorized by Congress under Section 219(b)3 of the Federal Power Act, and integration of GETs into the transmission planning proposal. FERC should also work to ensure that consumers are served efficiently and economically through the deployment of GETs no matter whether they live in an organized market region or not.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

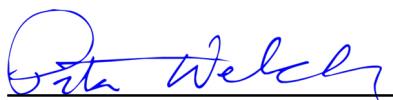
Sincerely,

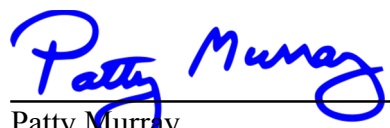

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

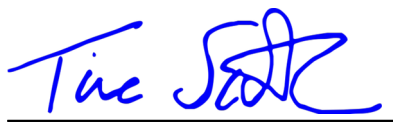

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

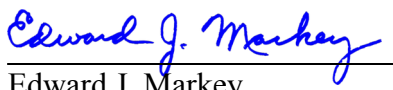

John Hickenlooper
United States Senator

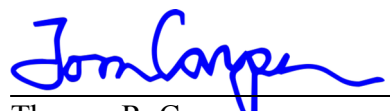

Peter Welch
United States Senator


Patty Murray
United States Senator


Tina Smith
United States Senator


Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


Thomas R. Carper
Chairman
Committee on Environment
and Public Works