

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4805

March 28, 2024

Ms. Maria Duaine Robinson
Director
Grid Deployment Office
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Director Robinson,

I write in support of FirstEnergy's application for funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) opportunity: Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program. This funding will support the company's "CREATE through West Virginia/Maryland Smart Grid" project.

As Ranking Member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I am proud to have spearheaded the bipartisan IIJA that directly invests in our nation's infrastructure needs. The IIJA will provide transformational support to our communities, and I am happy to see the positive effects this legislation is already having in West Virginia.

Should funding be awarded, FirstEnergy will invest in smart grid and electrification-enabling technologies to enhance the reliability and resilience of the region's grid, in order to meet the growing energy demands of the future. Additionally, this project will allow for substantial investments in workforce development, in order to train distribution system operators, distribution line workers, substation electricians, and relay technicians. FirstEnergy will engage with labor partners throughout the region to implement this project, and will maximize the project's potential impacts to spur workforce development and make grid improvement across West Virginia.

West Virginia's best days are ahead of us and every investment made centered around the children in our state brings us closer to the shared goal of uplifting Mountaineers everywhere. It is more important than ever that we encourage domestic manufacturing and support our nation's energy needs, which is why I am writing in support of FirstEnergy's application. I remain a committed partner to our federal, state, and local entities, working in West Virginia. As you consider submissions for this year's GRIP Program, please give this application your full consideration.

Sincerely,



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator