Advancing Grid Enhancing Technologies (GETs Act)

U.S. Representative
KATHY CASTOR

The Challenge: Bringing New Renewable Energy Online, Quickly

The United States is grappling with rapid new **growth in electricity demand**, high household energy prices, and the **rapid progression** of climate change. To manage these impacts, the U.S. needs to drive down greenhouse emissions and quickly bring new clean energy onto the grid. Meeting our goals for economic growth and clean energy will only be possible if we boost transmission capacity around the country.

Transmission capacity is vital because grid operators frequently struggle to find space on the grid needed to bring new clean energy projects online, resulting in time-consuming interconnection processes, delayed projects, and higher energy costs. The U.S. must make bold investments to upgrade our aging transmission infrastructure.

Grid-enhancing technologies (GETs) must be part of the solution. GETs are a type of transmission technology that allows grid operators to more dynamically manage the flow of electricity through the grid. GETs enable transmission operators to **cheaply and easily increase capacity** of existing infrastructure. Some important examples of GETs that are currently available include dynamic line rating, advanced power flow control, and topology optimization.

The Solution: Incentivizing Deployment of Grid-Enhancing Technologies

Unfortunately, current financial incentives aren't encouraging developers to implement GETs. **Under the status quo,** utilities see guaranteed returns on investment for building big, expensive infrastructure like transmission lines and power generation plants. But they get little or no return for targeted, cost-saving investments like GETs.

A **shared savings incentive** could split savings created by GETs implementation between the installer and ratepayers, motivating developers to invest in GETs and increase the U.S. grid's capacity.

Bill Summary: The Advancing GETs Act

The *Advancing GETs Act* would require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to establish a shared savings incentive for GETs, allowing a developer to recoup the cost of a GETs project, plus some of the cost-savings generated by it. The rest of the savings would go to ratepayers. The bill also includes important guardrails to protect consumers and reward deployment of GETs projects that result in savings of at least four times their upfront cost.

Additionally, the *Advancing GETs Act* requires transmission owners to annually report costs associated with congestion to FERC and directs FERC to analyze and publish this data. Lastly, it charges the Department of Energy with: creating an application guide for implementing GETs projects; providing technical assistance to stakeholders interested in GETs; and managing a clearinghouse with examples of GETs projects.

Endorsers: WATT Coalition, ACORE, ELCON, NRDC, SEIA, & Sierra Club