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**Committee:** Senate Energy & Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy

**Event:** [Subcommittee on Energy to Receive Testimony on Pending Legislation](#)

**Date:** April 15, 2026

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**Executive Summary:** The purpose of this hearing was to receive testimony on the following bills:

- GRID Power Act ([S.465](#))- Sen. **John Hoeven** (R-ND)
- Advancing GETs Act of 2025 ([S.1327](#)) - Sen. **Peter Welch** (D-VT)
- Reliable Power Act ([S.3034](#))- Sen. **Tom Cotton** (R-AR)
- REDUCE Act ([S.3192](#))- Sen. **Dick Durbin** (D-IL)
- Liquid Cooling for AI Act of 2025 ([S.3269](#))- Sen. **Dave McCormick** (R-PA)
- REWIRE Act ([S.3947](#))- Sen. **Dave McCormick** (R-PA)

**Member Toplines:**

*Subcommittee Chair Dave McCormick (R-PA)*<sup>1</sup>: McCormick emphasized that the hearing is focused on advancing grid-related legislation to address rising electricity demand driven by artificial intelligence (AI) and reindustrialization, which is projected to increase energy demand by roughly 25 percent by 2030. He framed energy capacity and grid modernization as important to U.S. economic competitiveness and national security, particularly in the context of the AI race with China. McCormick noted that existing infrastructure constraints and permitting delays are barriers to necessary grid modernization. He pointed to his Liquid Cooling for AI Act of 2025 and REWIRE Act as ways to accelerate the deployment of AI and overcome permitting delays to add additional capacity.

*Subcommittee Ranking Member Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)*: Gallego emphasized the increased strain on the U.S. grid due to citing increasing electricity demand from data centers, electrification, and manufacturing growth. He highlighted the rising energy costs associated with this, noting that prices are placing significant financial strain on ratepayers. Gallego underscored the need to expand generation, improve efficiency, and pursue permitting reform, while stressing that outdated transmission infrastructure harms reliability and affordability. He argued that significant transmission expansion is necessary to reduce costs and prevent outages and expressed support for the Liquid Cooling for AI Act and the Advancing GETs Act.

*Sen. Peter Welch (D-VT)*<sup>2</sup>: Welch spoke in support of the REWIRE Act, which he co-introduced with Sen. McCormick. He pointed to the bipartisan nature of the problem of rising electricity costs, noting that ratepayers across the U.S. face similar affordability challenges. He highlighted his legislation with McCormick as focusing on improving the efficiency of existing transmission infrastructure to increase capacity without the need for new buildout, which increases costs for ratepayers.

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<sup>1</sup> Opening testimony was not available at the time of this memo's composition.

<sup>2</sup> Testimony was not available at the time of this memo's composition.

## ***Witness Toplines:***

[David Morenoff, Deputy General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission \(FERC\)](#): Morenoff highlighted three FERC priorities: supporting reliability and fair rates, facilitating the integration of large loads such as data centers while allocating costs appropriately, and advancing infrastructure development. Morenoff noted that rapidly increasing electricity demand is driving the need for faster interconnection of new generation and more efficient use of existing infrastructure, and pointed to FERC [Order No. 2023](#) to streamline interconnection processes and address large-load challenges. He stated that the legislation under consideration aligns with FERC's goals and that FERC is ready to implement additional authorities if directed by Congress.

[Kal Ayoub, Director, Office of Electric Reliability, FERC](#): Ayoub spoke to FERC's role in overseeing the reliability and security of the nation's bulk power system as directed by the *Federal Power Act*, citing its partnership with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) to develop and enforce mandatory reliability standards. He emphasized that emerging challenges, such as rapid load growth from data centers, an evolving energy resource mix, extreme weather, and physical and cybersecurity threats, are placing pressure on grid reliability. Ayoub highlighted FERC actions to strengthen reliability standards, improve weather preparedness, and address risks from inverter-based resources. He spoke to the Commission's ongoing work with NERC to develop reliability standards for large loads. He stated that the legislation under consideration reflects the challenges impacting grid reliability.

## ***Major Takeaways:***

### Grid Enhancing Technologies (GETs):

- Sen. **Angus King** (I-ME) spoke in support of the Advancing GETs Act, noting that GETs are faster and more affordable than rebuilding existing infrastructure and face fewer permitting challenges. He pointed out that the legislation would help counteract current incentive structures for utilities to rebuild rather than improve existing infrastructure.
  - Ayoub stated that GETs can provide significant reliability benefits, noting that increasing the flow of electrons on the grid improves overall system reliability.
- Sen. **Alex Padilla** (D-CA) expressed support for both the GETs Act and REWIRE Act as steps toward grid modernization and transmission expansion, and referenced his recently released broader transmission discussion draft, which incorporates similar provisions.
  - When asked about what legal or administrative barriers may hinder the implementation of either act at scale, Morenoff noted that scaling GETs is less constrained by legal barriers and more by the need to establish a proper incentive structure, which the legislation under consideration seeks to address.
- Sen. McCormick noted the potential for reconducting to increase capacity from existing infrastructure.

### Interconnection Queue:

- Sen. Padilla pointed to FERC's progress on improving interconnection queue delays under Order No. 2023 and regional interconnection reforms, emphasizing their fuel-neutral approach, and raised concerns about proposals like the GRID Power Act that would allow certain baseload resources to jump the queue, pointing out that prescriptive prioritization could undermine neutrality and disrupt ongoing improvements to the interconnection process.

- Morenoff noted that FERC would defer to Congress regarding additional steps to prioritize specific resource types.
- Sen. Gallego raised concerns about the implementation timeline provided in the GRID Power Act, which only gives FERC six months to comply with the legislation.
  - Morenoff noted that rulemaking processes can take time due to public comment requirements, but that FERC takes congressional deadlines seriously.
- Morenoff highlighted that slow interconnection processes have historically been a problem in attracting investment, but are now threatening the availability of generation needed to meet large-load demand.

#### Grid Reliability and Load Growth:

- Sen. Gallego asked witnesses if FERC currently had the expertise and data necessary to conduct reviews of proposed agency actions for reliability concerns as mandated in the Reliable Power Act.
  - Ayoub stated that FERC currently has the expertise and data to ensure grid reliability presently, but deferred to Morenoff on cross-agency expertise.
  - Morenoff pointed to the expertise, data, and support provided by NERC as a useful resource. He stated that he believes that NERC and some national labs may have the capacity to conduct the studies required by the Reliable Power Act, but that FERC does not currently have the internal capability to perform them itself.
- Sen. McCormick asked witnesses how FERC is assessing the implications of load growth on grid reliability.
  - Ayoub referenced NERC's annual Long Term Reliability Assessment as an important tool in helping FERC identify where there are generation deficiencies, transmission issues, and threats to grid reliability.