

# 2021 Federal Legislation Transmission Related Provisions

**WECC Environmental Data Task Force  
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# Two major pieces of federal legislation . . .

- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (HR 3684)  
*Signed into law by President Biden on November 15, 2021*
- Build Back Better bill (HR 5376)  
*Passed House November 19, 2021, awaiting action in Senate*

*This review is provisional and does not cover cybersecurity, data access, energy resource development, mineral development for transmission equipment, interconnection provisions, PMA borrowing authority, etc.*

# Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

## SEC. 40101. PREVENTING OUTAGES AND ENHANCING THE RESILIENCE OF THE ELECTRIC GRID

- \$5 billion for FY 2022-2026
- Matching grants to transmission owners (50%), States and Tribes (50%)
- Funds for activities that (1) are supplemental to existing hardening efforts; (2) reduce the risk of power lines causing wildfires; (3) reduce the likelihood and consequences of disruptive events
- Includes: weatherization technologies and equipment; fire-resistant technologies and fire prevention systems; monitoring and control technologies; undergrounding of electrical equipment; utility pole management; relocation of power lines or the reconductoring of power lines with low-sag, advanced conductors; vegetation and fuel-load management; distributed energy resources for enhancing system adaptive capacity during disruptive events; adaptive protection technologies; advanced modeling technologies; hardening of power lines, facilities, substations, of other systems; replacement of old overhead conductors and underground cables.

# Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

## SEC. 40103. ELECTRIC GRID RELIABILITY AND RESILIENCE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION

- “Program Upgrading Our Electric Grid and Ensuring Reliability and Resiliency”
- \$5 billion for FY 2022-2026
- States, Tribes, local governments, PUCs
- coordinate and collaborate with electric sector owners and operators:
  - (a) demonstrate innovative approaches to transmission, storage, and distribution infrastructure to harden and enhance resilience and reliability;
  - (b) demonstrate new approaches to enhance regional grid resilience

# Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

## SEC. 40103. ELECTRIC GRID RELIABILITY AND RESILIENCE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION

- “Energy Improvement in Rural or Remote Areas”
- \$1 billion for FY 2022-2026
- overall cost-effectiveness of energy generation, transmission, or distribution systems; siting or upgrading transmission and distribution lines; reducing greenhouse gas emissions from energy generation by rural or remote areas; providing or modernizing electric generation facilities; developing microgrids; increasing energy efficiency.

# Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

## SEC. 40105. SITING OF INTERSTATE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES

- modifications to the National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors provisions of the 2005 Energy Policy Act
- including changes to corridor designation, construction permits, rights-of-way and interstate compacts

# Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

## SEC. 40106. TRANSMISSION FACILITATION PROGRAM

- \$2.5 billion revolving fund plus potential additional funds
- Program covers new or replacement transmission lines (at least 1000 MW) and increasing capacity of existing transmission lines or adding new lines to an existing corridor (at least 500 MW)
- DOE may (a) make loans; (b) enter into capacity contracts in consultation with relevant transmission planning regions, and remarket any such capacity; and (c) jointly participate in project development in a NIETC corridor

# Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

## SEC. 40107. DEPLOYMENT OF TECHNOLOGIES TO ENHANCE GRID FLEXIBILITY

- \$3 billion for FY 2022-2026
- Can fund many purposes including:
  - dynamic line rating, flow control devices, advanced conductors, network topology optimization, or other hardware, software, and associated protocols applied to existing transmission facilities that increase the operational transfer capacity of a transmission network, the documented expenditures to purchase and install those advanced transmission technologies
  - the ability to redirect or shut off power to minimize blackouts
  - data analytics and software-as-a-service to provide flexibility by improving the visibility of the electrical system to grid operators that can help quickly rebalance the electrical system with autonomous controls
  - hardware, software, and associated protocols applied to existing transmission facilities to increase the operational transfer capacity of a transmission network
  - anticipate and mitigate impacts of extreme weather or natural disasters on grid resiliency.



# Build Back Better bill

## SEC. 30461. TRANSMISSION LINE AND INTERTIE GRANTS AND LOANS

- \$8 billion for FY 2022-2031
- Grants and direct loans supporting review of new transmission lines or upgrades – must be 275 kV or higher – and Interties (including COI/PDCI) to support a more robust and resilient electric grid and the integration of clean electricity

# Build Back Better bill

## SEC. 30464. INTERREGIONAL AND OFFSHORE WIND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION PLANNING, MODELING, AND ANALYSIS

- \$100 million for 2022-2031
- Pay expenses associated with convening relevant stakeholders, including States, generation and transmission developers, regional transmission organizations, independent system operators, environmental organizations, Indian Tribes, and other stakeholders
- Supports the development of (1) interregional electricity transmission and (2) offshore wind generation
- Supports planning, modeling, and analysis pertaining to clean energy integration; effects of changes in weather due to climate change on the reliability and resilience of the electric grid; cost allocation methodologies that facilitate the expansion of the bulk power system; power flow modeling; cooptimization of transmission and generation, energy storage, and demand-side management; nontransmission alternatives and grid-enhancing technologies; evaluation of existing rights-of-way and the need for additional transmission corridors; etc.

# Build Back Better bill

## SEC. 136105. INVESTMENT CREDIT FOR ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION PROPERTY

- 30% tax credit for new transmission or upgrades – must be at least 275 kV and 500 MW of capacity
- Full credit is subject to prevailing wage, apprenticeship and domestic content provisions