

BILL DeWEESE
MAJORITY LEADER



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

October 2, 2007

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman, Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Re: Designation of Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor

Dear Secretary Bodman,

In my capacity as the Majority Leader of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and as the duly elected State Legislator for the 50th Legislative District, which encompasses all of Greene County and parts of Fayette and Washington Counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I forward this letter to express my outrage and disappointment with the decision of the United States Department of Energy to designate 52 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties as part of the Mid-Atlantic National Corridor as a national interest electric transmission corridor.

I understand fully the need to ensure the reliability of the nation's electric transmission grid. However, it is my belief and that of many experts and policy makers that the transmission-only solution to resolving congestion and energy demand issues in East Coast urbanized areas is a shortsighted in-the-box approach that ignores contemporary solutions that work. Consequently, § 1221 of the Bush/Cheney Energy Policy Act of 2005 and your inclusion of nearly 80% of the Commonwealth's land mass in the Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor is a draconian consequence of big government public policy at its worst. It is a fact that the Mid-Atlantic National Corridor designation and any resulting transmission facilities that the Federal government may approve will provide little or no public benefit to my constituents but will result in enormous profits for energy corporations and their stockholders for the sake of energy piranhas in the East Coast urban centers in the name of national security.

It is my belief that decisions hashed in secret by a few with self-serving financial motives will result in outcomes that adversely affect many. There is no doubt that the Bush/Cheney and special interests brokered Energy Policy Act of 2005 is the global environment's worst nightmare and antithetical to policies promoted to alleviate climate change. Furthermore, § 1221 of this alleged secretly brokered legislation is a stake in the heart to states' rights and the right of people to be secure and absent of governmental imposed fear in their homes and businesses.

My constituents and people across the Mid-Atlantic region have spoken but their views were ignored; disregarded as if no words of opposition to the Mid-Atlantic corridor were uttered. I will continue to urge Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation, individually and collectively, and Congressmen and women from the other affected states, to work to repeal § 1221.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill DeWeese", is written over the typed name.

Bill DeWeese
Majority Leader
50th Legislative District