



GridWise Alliance Senate Energy and Climate Priorities

The following are priorities that our coalition believes would move smart grid forward, enabling the grid to become more reliable, efficient, and clean.

AUTHORIZATION PROVISIONS

CLEAN ENERGY DEPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION

GridWise Alliance supports the CEDA provision that will include smart grid investments as part of the technologies applicable for the financing mechanism.

[Relevant legislation: ACELA]

RENEWABLE AND EFFICIENCY STANDARD

GridWise Alliance supports including reduced line losses in the definition of energy efficiency.

[Relevant legislation: ACELA]

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

GridWise Alliance supports inclusion of smart grid interoperability and smart grid charging infrastructure in an electric vehicle provision.

[Relevant legislation: ACELA and Electric Vehicle Deployment Act S. 3495]

CONSUMER ACCESS

GridWise Alliance supports inclusion of consumer access provision in energy bill.

[Relevant legislation: Electric Consumer Right to Know Act, S. 3487]

TRANSMISSION SITING

GridWise Alliance supports inclusion of smart grid and reduced transmission line losses in transmission siting process.

[Relevant legislation: ACELA]

CLEAN ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

GridWise Alliance supports inclusion of smart grid research and development funded by climate allowances.

[Relevant legislation: America Power Act]

ENERGY STORAGE

GridWise Alliance supports enabling legislation to create a federal/state joint board, made up of federal and state regulators to address key regulatory reforms needed to jump start deployment of energy storage devices including plug in hybrid electric vehicles, fly-wheel technology and energy storage devices that support use of renewable generation on the grid.

[Legislative precedent: an existing provision in the original Federal Power Act of 1935 allows for the seating of Joint Boards made up of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the states to address regulatory issues which overlap federal and state jurisdiction. In the Energy Policy Act of 2005 Congress called for the creation of a Joint Board to address a review of dispatch policies associated with electric generation. Congress could, at no cost, call for the creation of a targeted FERC/state joint board to address key impediments to the deployment of energy storage technology. Enabling legislation may be introduced soon on this topic which could then be joined with overall energy legislation.]



TAX PROVISIONS

BONUS DEPRECIATION

GridWise Alliance supports the extension of the bonus depreciation provision.

[Relevant legislative language: Extend provision in PL110-185, Section 103, SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY ACQUIRED DURING 2008, to expire January 1, 2011 instead of 2010.]

ACCELERATED DEPRECIATION

GridWise Alliance supports reducing applicable recovery periods for smart grid equipment, including smart grid charging infrastructure for electric vehicles to five years.

[Relevant legislation: S 2854 for extension and modification of charging infrastructure credit; Relevant legislative language for other smart grid equipment:

FIVE-YEAR APPLICABLE RECOVERY PERIOD FOR DEPRECIATION OF QUALIFIED ENERGY MANAGEMENT DEVICES.

(a) In General- Section 168(e)(3)(B) (defining 5-year property) is amended by striking `and' at the end of clause (v), by striking the period at the end of clause (vi)(III) and inserting `, and', and by inserting after clause (vi) the following new clause: (vii) any qualified energy management device.'

(b) Definition of Qualified Energy Management Device- Section 168(i) (relating to definitions and special rules) is amended by inserting at the end the following new paragraph:

(18) QUALIFIED ENERGY MANAGEMENT DEVICE-

(A) IN GENERAL- The term `qualified energy management device' means any energy management device which is placed in service before January 1, 2012, by a taxpayer who is a supplier of electric energy or a provider of electric energy services.

(B) ENERGY MANAGEMENT DEVICE- For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term `energy management device' means any two-way communications network and associated equipment, including equipment installed on the premises of a consumer, which is used by the taxpayer--

(i) to measure and record electricity usage data on a time-differentiated basis of at least 15 minutes, and

(ii) to provide such data on demand to both consumers and the taxpayer.'.]

HOMESTAR

GridWise Alliance supports including Home Energy Management Systems (HEMS) tax credits for homeowners.

[Relevant definition for legislative language:

Home Energy Management Systems (HEMS) is a computer based system that is installed in a home and uses a combination of display technology, computer software, control equipment, sensors, and instrumentation to monitor and manage the energy use of a home.

Home Area Network (HAN): -- The term "Home Area Network" means a wireless (RF) or wired (PLC) based network that connects the HEMS device to smart meters and various smart energy devices. The HAN enable simultaneous networking of multiple sensors and embedded computing devices that monitor and adjust electricity use.]

ENERGY STORAGE

GridWise Alliance supports including energy storage tax incentives in energy bill.

[Relevant legislation: Wyden Bill, S 1091]