

## **Grid Resilience Improvement through Dedicated Assistance (GRID Assistance) Act**

**The Issue:** Modernizing the nation's power grid is absolutely essential to meeting our increasing energy demand and reaching our clean energy goals in the face of a rapidly changing climate. Threats to the grid range from wildfires to cyberattacks, and the need for expanded transmission capacity and hardened infrastructure against these threats has never been more pressing.

Public power remains a key element of our nation's power system, especially in rural communities across the country. Municipally-owned utilities and rural electric cooperatives are often significantly smaller than their for-profit counterparts, but work tirelessly to supply countless American homes and businesses with reliable, clean energy at low cost. Their smaller size presents several barriers to applying for existing federal funds that would help them make their energy systems more resilient, despite often operating in areas with the highest risk of wildfire.

**The Solution:** To help address this, Senator Wyden has introduced his Grid Resilience Improvement through Dedicated Assistance Act, also known as the GRID Assistance Act. This bill creates a \$25 million grant program through the Department of Energy that will be used to help State, local, and Tribal governments, as well as nonprofits and institutions of higher education hire Grid Assistants that will serve groups of public power utilities in their region.

These Grid Assistants will provide expert support services to public power utilities - which often face serious staffing limitations - in applying for vital funding to expand or harden their transmission and distribution infrastructure. From existing grant programs to State incentives and the historic tax credits that Senator Wyden passed as part of the Inflation Reduction Act, these Grid Assistants will help public power utilities level the playing field and ensure that government resources are spent competitively and effectively.

Together with the historic grid security investments made in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, the GRID Assistance Act will ensure that all Americans can continue to have access to reliable, affordable power, all while reducing the risk of wildfire and other threats.