

1 COMMITTEE: Agriculture and Energy

2 POLICY: Energy Regionalism

3 TYPE OF POLICY: Existing

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5 The United States has historically enjoyed low energy and gasoline prices. However, in  
6 recent years, increases in gasoline prices, home heating oil, natural gas prices and electricity  
7 prices, especially in the West, have all contributed to the uncertainty and instability of the  
8 country's economy. This instability has led to increased federal efforts to impose preemptive  
9 remedies on the states in an attempt to address the nation's energy and economic concerns.

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11 Given the energy concerns for the nation and those shared by many individual states, NCSL  
12 believes that state legislatures should work together, regionally or otherwise, to solve their  
13 individual and collective energy supply concerns. Therefore, NCSL believes that:

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15 States should have the option and authority of being represented in Regional Transmission  
16 Organizations (RTOs) on a voluntary basis. State participation in an RTO should not  
17 supersede nor alter state jurisdiction, unless agreed to by the state;

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19 State-created regional mechanisms like interstate compacts and regional reliability boards  
20 designed to address transmission reliability and other regional energy issues should be  
21 facilitated by Congress;

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23 States should collaborate to resolve problems related to the interconnectedness of the  
24 energy grid and the environmental impact of generating electricity;

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26 Energy facility siting should remain under state jurisdiction devoid of federal mandates and  
27 preemption; Electric facility siting authority should remain under state authority.

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29 The federal government should not exercise its power of eminent domain in its pursuit of  
30 constructing energy facilities or related purposes;

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32 To the extent to which federal activity has restricted state authority over electric facility siting,  
33 specifically electricity transmission lines, the federal government should work together with  
34 the states to ensure a seamless system of regulatory action and minimize the necessity for  
35 the federal backstop to be used;

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37 U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should work in  
38 partnership with states:

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40 1. in developing and implementing state and federal energy policy planning processes; and

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42 2. in deploying new energy efficiency and other demand-side options, as well as deploying  
43 new and conventional supply-side technologies;

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45 3. Given the national implications of state energy concerns, the federal government should  
46 provide sufficient funding to states as they develop energy policies on an individual or  
47 regional basis; and

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49 4. The federal government should exercise its authority, especially when requested by  
50 states, to assist them as they attempt to solve their energy problems.

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