

1 **COMMITTEE:**           **NATURAL RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
2 **POLICY:**               **ENERGY SECURITY**  
3 **TYPE:**                 **POLICY DIRECTIVE (*with amendment*)**  
4 **SPONSOR:**           **REPRESENTATIVE ANDREA BOLAND – MAINE**

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6 In order to fully secure the further benefits that only a national energy policy can ensure,  
7 NCSL urges Congress to direct the U.S. Department of Energy through the national  
8 laboratories and technology centers to develop a national energy strategy for moving the  
9 United States toward independence from non-North American energy sources. The  
10 development of this strategy should be done in partnership with state governments and  
11 universities to leverage the work which has already been done and should encompass short,  
12 medium and long-term goals designed to help transition the nation to a more secure, resilient,  
13 and financially stable power grid, communications network, and future configuration that is  
14 drastically more independent of non-North American energy sources

15 The NCSL believes a considerable effort needs to be undertaken at the federal level in  
16 partnership with state, local and tribal governments to help bring about a more secure,  
17 resilient and sustainable energy future. To that end NCSL urges action by Congress and the  
18 administration to:

- 19 • Promote enhanced efficiency and conservation in the use of our energy resources;
- 20 • Establish a diversified national energy;
- 21 • Encourage and assist in the development of enhanced oil and gas refining capacity  
22 and technology;
- 23 • Support domestic energy production and reduce imports;
- 24 • Regularly reviews and updates CAFE standards;
- 25 • Accelerate research and development of advanced clean energy technologies;
- 26 • Promote the development of an infrastructure to support the distribution of clean  
27 energy technologies;

- 28 • Ensure energy resources are used in a sustainable and environmentally sound  
29 manner; and give FERC authorities described under the SHIELD Act (H.R.2417) to: (1)  
30 require the electric power industry to protect the national grid from natural  
31 geomagnetic disturbances (GMD) and manmade electromagnetic pulse (EMP); (2)  
32 require that grid protection not rely solely on operational procedures, but include  
33 hardening the grid with blocking devices, surge arrestors, farady cages and other  
34 technologies; (3) require specific attention to ensuring that Extra Hight Voltage (EHV)  
35 transformers are protected
- 36 • Support investment in the national academic and job training systems in order to  
37 advance science and engineering curricula for the purpose of creating a highly skilled  
38 and trained workforce;
- 39 • Address the limitations of the visa system that restricts entry to the United states of  
40 leading scientists and engineers from around the world; and
- 41 • Promote employment and advancement of the highest skilled American scientists,  
42 engineers, and physicists;
- 43 • Address the capital, material and labor deficiencies affecting our ability to manufacture  
44 and deploy advanced clean energy technologies.
- 45 • Accelerate the deployment and use of alternative transportation fuels produced from  
46 natural gas, coal, biomass, and oil shale, in order to begin to eliminate the nation's  
47 dependence on foreign sources of oil.

48 The U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should work  
49 in partnership with states to:

- 50 1. Develop and implement state and federal energy policy planning processes;
- 51 2. Deploy new energy efficiency and other demand-side options, as well as deploying new  
52 and conventional supply-side technologies;
- 53 3. Provide sufficient funding to states as they develop energy policies and infrastructure  
54 protections on an individual or regional basis; and

55 4. Provide assistance, when requested, as states attempt to solve their energy and  
56 infrastructure problems.

57 5. Provide sufficient funding to the Office of Energy Infrastructure Security to adequately  
58 support assistance to states in developing their plans to protect their transmission and  
59 distribution systems from collapse due to GMD and EMP.

60 **NCSL believes:**

61 States should have the option and authority of being represented in Regional Transmission  
62 Organizations (RTOs) on a voluntary basis. Such participation should not supersede nor alter  
63 state jurisdiction, unless agreed to by the state;

64 Congress should facilitate the development of state-created regional mechanisms like  
65 interstate compacts and regional reliability boards designed to address transmission  
66 reliability, problems related to the interconnectedness of the energy grid, environmental  
67 impact of generating electricity, vulnerability to GMD and EMP and other regional energy  
68 issues;

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70 Energy facility siting should remain under state jurisdiction devoid of federal mandates and  
71 preemption; Electric facility siting authority should remain under state authority; Congress and  
72 the states should facilitate planning of distributed energy projects for ensuring resilient  
73 societies.

74 The federal government should not exercise its power of eminent domain in its pursuit of  
75 constructing energy facilities, communications infrastructure, or related purposes;

76 To the extent to which federal activity has restricted state authority over electric and  
77 communications facility siting, specifically electricity transmission lines and communications  
78 towers, the federal government should work together with the states to ensure a seamless  
79 system of regulatory action and minimize the necessity for the federal backstop to be used.