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HIGH-CAPACITY GRID ACT

The High-Capacity Grid Act modernizes America's transmission system by incentivizing the use of *best-available transmission conductors* for new interstate transmission lines and rebuilds. This will help strengthen energy reliability, optimize line capacity, improve wildfire resilience, and lower electricity costs for Americans.

THE PROBLEM:

America's aging power grid is facing increasing electricity demand, worsening congestion, and growing wildfire risks. Current standards and return on equity methods do not incentivize the use of best-available conductor technologies, allowing the use of outdated, inefficient conductors, even when far superior technologies are available. This leads to::

- Underbuilt lines that require additional upgrades only a few years later
- Higher temperatures and line sag, increasing vegetation-contact and wildfire risk
- Slower project timelines and frequent line losses, increasing costs for Americans

THE SOLUTION:

America cannot afford to build yesterday's grid for tomorrow's needs. The High-Capacity Grid Act directs FERC to establish a best-available transmission conductor standard, requiring utilities to use the highest-capacity, highest-efficiency, and lowest-sag commercially available conductors for interstate transmission. This Act amends Section 205 of the Federal Power Act to:

1. Define "Best-Available Transmission Conductor."
A best-available conductor must provide the greatest feasible capacity at a given voltage, deliver the highest electrical efficiency, and mitigate thermal sag.

2. Apply the Standard to All Covered Projects.
Includes new FERC-jurisdictional lines and upgrades, modifications, replacements, or reconductoring of existing lines.

3. Establish Cost-Recovery Presumptions.
Utilities are precluded from recovering the costs of anything but the best-available conductors through consumers' electric bills, unless the utility can clearly demonstrate that a lesser conductor is the best available in their specific context.

For questions about the legislation, please contact Spencer.C.Talley@mail.house.gov.