



Western Transmission Joint Statement of Agreement For a Stronger, More Connected Western Grid

Purpose and Background

Reliable, affordable electricity is essential to economic growth, energy security, and competitiveness across the American West. The region's aging grid and rapidly rising demand from electrification, population growth, extreme weather events, and economic expansion are placing increasing pressure on transmission infrastructure. Expanding and modernizing transmission is one of the most cost-effective ways to strengthen reliability, reduce congestion, stabilize rates, and protect against wildfires, cybersecurity threats, and extreme weather.

Investing in a well-connected western grid is the key to unlocking the diverse energy generation resources in the West and meeting the goals of the Western Governors' Association (WGA) Energy Superabundance Chair initiative. The West can implement a truly "all of the above" energy strategy, which will protect ratepayers, strengthen reliability, and support continued economic prosperity across the region.

Western states share an interconnected grid that is ripe for strategic expansion led by the states, who already play a central role in transmission siting, permitting, environmental review, and coordination with counties, utilities, and local stakeholders. Many delays affecting transmission projects arise from fragmented processes, limited staffing resources, and insufficient coordination across jurisdictions. By improving coordination, aligning processes where appropriate, and dedicating staff resources to regional collaboration, states can significantly improve the pace and predictability of transmission development without requiring changes to federal or state law.

Therefore, as outlined below, we write to express our strong, collective support for the Western Transmission Expansion Coalition (WestTEC) and its roadmap for expanding transmission infrastructure across the western United States, with its findings serving as a model to catalyze discussion and improve coordination across the states. We also commit to establishing a western transmission task force to accelerate transmission permitting.

A Plan Built on Collaboration

As Western Governors, we acknowledge the urgent need for expanded transmission infrastructure across the region to ensure residents and businesses continue to receive reliable, affordable energy critical to health, safety, and economic vitality. States across the West have already begun collaborating with utilities, regional planning organizations, Tribal governments, public interest organizations, and other stakeholders to examine these challenges.

WestTEC is a broad regional effort to analyze transmission needs across the Western Interconnection. This plan is the product of an unprecedented, region-wide collaborative effort that brought together utilities, planning bodies, state and Tribal governments, public interest organizations, and other stakeholders in a transparent and inclusive process. The result is a credible, actionable roadmap that reflects the West at its best: working across state lines and across sectors to solve shared challenges.

The WestTEC study assesses needs to not only support reliability, but also to promote open, competitive markets by reducing bottlenecks that restrict choice and limit access to lower-cost power. The WestTEC report provides a collaborative and analytically rigorous assessment of transmission needs across the Western Interconnection and offers an actionable roadmap for expanding transmission infrastructure that will improve reliability, reduce congestion and dispatch costs, strengthen the regional grid, and achieve energy superabundance.

Recognizing the value of this collaborative work, we collectively endorse the WestTEC study process, its findings and support continued collaboration among utilities, developers, planning entities, and other stakeholders to advance transmission projects identified through the WestTEC analyses that provide comparable regional benefits and serve to solve shared challenges.

As Governors, we will work together to find practical, bipartisan solutions that improve the grid and expand transmission infrastructure across the West. Given the quality and rigor of the WestTEC process and the urgent needs facing our region, together we are committed to:

- Endorsing the WestTEC coalition and its study process;
- Supporting WestTEC's findings and encouraging states to engage in coordinated discussion around the transmission needs and opportunities identified in the study;
- Calling for coordination among state agencies and with neighboring states and local governments, as well as government-to-government consultation between states and Tribal agencies, to advance and ultimately construct the transmission projects identified by WestTEC (or substantially similar, non-redundant alternatives); and
- Dedicating appropriate staff resources to communicate, collaborate, and share information regarding multi-jurisdictional transmission projects.

Establish a Western Governors' Transmission Permitting Task Force

We commit to establishing the Transmission Permitting Alignment and Coordination Task Force (PACT), a multi-state task force to accelerate transmission permitting. The Task Force will provide Governors, their staff, and participating Tribal governments with a mechanism to jointly accelerate transmission permitting, resolve cross-jurisdictional challenges, and elevate regional priorities. By aligning state and federal permitting processes, the Task Force will reduce delays, surface and resolve cross-jurisdictional bottlenecks, and create clearer pathways for priority lines critical to reliability and affordability. These state-led actions do not require federal permitting reform and can be implemented now.

We support the following Task Force objectives:

A. Establish a Governor-Led Regional Framework

Governors (or States' Energy Offices) and participating Tribal governments will designate State Task Force Leads and Tribal Task Force Leads empowered to convene state energy offices, agency leadership and staff, and coordinate when needed with other parties, Tribal agency staff,

and other relevant stakeholders. The Task Force will provide regular briefings to Governors and Tribal leaders when relevant on priority transmission projects, permitting timelines, and risks, creating clear, accountable leadership structures that reduce delays and establish consistent communication channels across jurisdictions.

B. Prioritize High-Impact Transmission Lines

Designate “Superabundance” Priority Transmission Lines using transparent reliability, affordability, and readiness criteria. For projects not tracked by FAST 41, the Task Force will consider establishing a public dashboard to track project permitting milestones, ensuring visible progress on priority transmission projects.

C. Develop Predictable, Multi-State Permitting Schedules

The Task Force will work to establish transparent and dependable permitting schedules for high-priority regional and interstate lines, and identify and resolve cross-state bottlenecks early such as wildlife conflicts or county review timelines. A common permitting schedule template with defined phases, durations, and parallel review windows will reduce uncertainty for investors and developers and accelerate regionally significant transmission projects.

D. Strengthen Cross-State Collaboration and Share Best Practices

The Task Force will develop model guidelines and best practices for state and county permitting of large-scale transmission, promoting consistency across the West, and reducing redundant work.

E. Strengthen Local and Tribal Participation

The Task Force will evaluate coordination challenges and capacity constraints that state, local, and Tribal governments face and consider what steps states and the federal government can take to promote greater government-to-government consultation, resulting in more durable, inclusive, and legally defensible transmission projects.

F. Maintain Strong Federal Relationships

The Task Force will coordinate with federal agencies while ensuring state processes can proceed independently. This includes working with federal agencies to prevent and resolve permitting delays and other barriers that limit progress on western transmission priorities.

Conclusion

Together, we believe this joint endorsement of the WestTEC process and the establishment of a Western Governors’ Transmission Permitting Alignment and Coordination Task Force will create an achievable path to energy superabundance in the West. This endorsement strengthens our shared commitment to pursue more reliable energy across state lines for a strong and resilient future.

Signed on June 30, 2026:



Spencer Cox
Governor of Utah



Jared Polis
Governor of Colorado



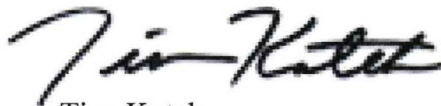
Mark Gordon
Governor of Wyoming




Joe Lombardo
Governor of Nevada



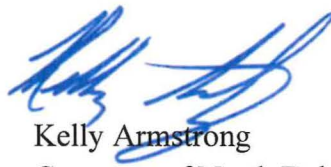
Brad Little
Governor of Idaho



Tina Kotek
Governor of Oregon



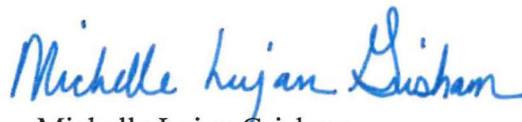
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