

**BRENT J. RIDGE**  
President and CEO



March 27, 2023

The Honorable Steve Scalise, Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2049 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Scalise,

I write today to reiterate Dairyland Power Cooperative's support for advancing clean energy by streamlining the federal environmental review and permitting process. As testified to the United States House of Representatives, Committee on Natural Resources, Dairyland supports the Builder Act and modernizing outdated policies with proposed changes to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) contained in H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act.

As a not-for-profit generation and transmission cooperative, Dairyland is committed to advancing clean energy in a way that does not sacrifice safety, reliability or affordability for consumers. This includes more renewable resources, battery storage, lower-emission natural gas facilities to back up intermittent renewable energy and transmission to efficiently deliver power.

Dairyland is pursuing two projects that are key to our clean energy transition. The first is the Nemadji Trail Energy Center, an efficient natural gas power plant in Superior, Wisconsin, which will support renewable energy additions. The environmental review process began in 2017 and a robust public engagement period. In 2021, the Rural Utilities Service issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). However, external groups petitioned RUS, and the FONSI was rescinded, causing delays and cost increases. A second study confirmed the plant would reduce GHG emissions, but we are still awaiting a final determination—which might not occur before July, more than five years after the process began.

The second example is the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line which will bring wind and solar energy from Iowa to Wisconsin. There are currently over 100 renewable generation projects depending on the construction of this line. In this example, the review was completed in a timely manner, but delays due to litigation have increased the cost of the project.

Dairyland supports Congress' effort to provide a pathway for more coordinated, consistent, and timely agency decision-making. This includes placing reasonable parameters around the review process and limiting unnecessary litigation. Simply put, NEPA modernization is necessary to advance future clean energy projects that will strengthen our economy and benefit the environment. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Ridge".

Brent J. Ridge  
President and CEO, Dairyland Power Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative The logo for Touchstone Energy, featuring a stylized figure holding a torch or similar symbol.

3200 East Ave. S. • PO Box 817 • La Crosse, WI 54602-0817 • 608-787-1258 • 608-787-1420 fax • [www.dairylandpower.com](http://www.dairylandpower.com)

Dairyland Power Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

cc:

Representative Peter Stauber

Representative Derrick Van Orden

Representative Tom Tiffany

Chairman Bruce Westerman

Majority Whip Tom Emmer