



## **SPEED & Reliability Act**

***Sen. John Hickenlooper***

**Problem:** Since 2014, North America has built just 7 gigawatts of large-scale interregional transmission compared to 44 in Europe and 260 in China. America’s transmission shortfall is contributing to grid outages across the country and inflating energy prices for American families and businesses.

The existing National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC) process is intended to speed siting and permitting for specific, high-impact transmission lines. However, the process has yet to yield a single transmission project because it requires duplicative environmental reviews at the Department of Energy (DOE) and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for qualifying transmission lines.

**Solution:** The SPEED & Reliability Act would cut at least 5 years from the existing siting and permitting process for high-impact transmission lines. It does this by:

1. Allowing individual transmission lines to be proposed and deemed as “national interest high-impact transmission facilities” and eliminating duplicative NEPA reviews from DOE and FERC.
  - Only high-voltage, high-capacity lines that cross multiple states and enhance reliability would be eligible.
  - FERC would do a single environmental review for the proposed transmission line.
2. Codifying FERC’s proposed policy for simultaneous state and federal reviews to recognize states’ authority in siting transmission and reduce the process by a year.
3. Requiring DOE to act on a proposed high-impact transmission line within 90 days.

**Benefits:** The bill would improve grid reliability, reduce costs for Americans, and boost economic development.

- **Improved Reliability:** Increasing power flows between regions can help keep the lights on during extreme weather events.
- **Reduced Costs:** High-impact transmission lines can save ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars every year by connecting them to the cheapest power sources.
- **Economic Development:** Power demand is growing as manufacturing returns to the U.S. and power-hungry industries like artificial intelligence and microchip manufacturing continue to grow. More high-impact transmission lines will help support this economic development across the country, especially in rural communities.