

LAUREN BOEBERT
4TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0603

1713 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4761
BOEBERT.HOUSE.GOV

February 10, 2025

Secretary Chris Wright
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Subject: Urgent Opposition to NIETC Designation in Colorado

Dear Secretary Wright,

Congratulations on your recent confirmation as U.S. Secretary of Energy. As a fellow Coloradan, I know that you understand the vital role that private property rights, agriculture, and rural economies play in our state's prosperity. I am reaching out with serious concerns about the previous administration's proposed National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor (NIETC) designations, particularly the Southwestern Grid Connector Corridor, which stands to disrupt thousands of landowners, farmers, and ranchers across southeastern Colorado.

I know you're just as frustrated as I am with the previous administration's reckless push for inefficient green energy projects at the expense of rural landowners, farmers, and ranchers. The previous administration's proposed NIETCs are yet another example of top-down federal overreach, allowing bureaucrats in D.C. to seize private property in the name of an energy transition that doesn't work and isn't wanted. I have heard directly from local officials and constituents over the past week who have expressed their frustration with the process and currently do not see any benefit to what amounts to a significant federal land grab.

If implemented, the current NIETC proposal would:

- Affect approximately 325,000 acres of private land in Baca, Prowers, and Kiowa counties in Colorado.
- Seize control of nearly 2 million acres of private property in New Mexico through federal eminent domain.
- Strip rural landowners of decision-making authority over their own land, forcing compliance with a Biden-Harris-driven green energy agenda.

We cannot continue to let the previous administration's failed agenda threaten property rights, state sovereignty, and local economies. Landowners in my district were given little to no notice about this proposal, and many have been unable to participate in the Department of Energy's (DOE) public comment process, which closes on Friday, February 14. This lack of transparency by the former administration is unacceptable.

As you know, the NIETC Southwestern Grid Connector Corridor is not about strengthening our energy grid—it's about forcing a progressive radical climate agenda on rural America with no regard for the people who actually live and work there. I know you understand; you've spent your career fighting for common-sense energy policies and against government interference in American industry and property rights. That's why I'm

asking you to do everything in your power to at a minimum extend the public comment process and if necessary, ultimately shut this project down. The Kansas delegation already fought back successfully, and Colorado should follow suit.

My colleagues in the Kansas delegation and their constituents successfully resisted the NIETC designation. Colorado deserves the same chance to have its concerns fully considered. **I urge the Department of Energy to reconsider and halt further actions on current NIETC designations in Colorado initiated by the previous administration.** This project fails to align with President Trump's Unleash American Energy Executive Order. I know you're the right person to lead DOE and I look forward to working with you to end the previous administration's attacks on rural America.

Thank you for your time, and I appreciate your immediate attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lauren Boebert" with a stylized star at the end of the last name.

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress
Colorado's 4th Congressional District