

MARK PRYOR

ARKANSAS

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND  
TRANSPORTATION

HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

SMALL BUSINESS AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

255 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-2353

500 PRESIDENT CLINTON AVENUE  
SUITE 401  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201  
(501) 324-6336  
TOLL FREE: (877) 259-9602  
<http://pryor.senate.gov>

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 15, 2011

The Honorable Steven Chu  
Secretary of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Chu:

In order to harness the United States' vast renewable energy potential, the construction of new transmission lines is necessary to transport clean power from typically rural resource-rich areas to more heavily populated urban areas with high demand. Construction of these transmission lines will create thousands of temporary and permanent jobs, reduce pollution caused by harmful emissions, and improve the security and diversity of America's energy supply through a free market approach.

Section 1222 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 authorizes the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Southwestern Power Administration to enter into partnerships with the private sector to expand the nation's transmission system and promote renewable energy deployment.

Clean Line Energy Partners (Clean Line) is developing the Plains & Eastern Clean Line transmission project that will deliver wind power produced in the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles and southwestern Kansas to the southeastern United States, an area that lacks access to low-cost renewable power. I recently learned that Clean Line has made an application to DOE to develop a high-voltage direct current (HVDC) interstate electric transmission line utilizing Section 1222 authority. I am hopeful that DOE will complete its review of this important project quickly and give appropriate consideration to Clean Line's 1222 application. It is important to note that this partnership requires no federal dollars as Clean Line is required to pay for all DOE and Southwestern costs.

Clean Line recently partnered with General Cable in Malvern, Arkansas to supply the 25 million feet of conductor for the Plains & Eastern Clean Line transmission project. Depending on the cost of the materials, this order could be worth \$100 million or more, with almost half of the conductor being used in Arkansas. In addition, other companies such as Nordex, LM Windpower, and Beckman Volmer have spent millions on factories in Arkansas to supply the wind business in the United States.

Arkansas can continue to be a leader in job development in the wind industry, if new transmission lines are built to unlock this domestic resource. I look forward to our continued work together to create jobs, move us toward energy independence, and develop energy resources that improve the environment.

Sincerely,



Mark Pryor  
United States Senator