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CONGRESSIONAL NEWS  
**FRANK R. WOLF**

Member of Congress  10th District, Virginia



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**To:** Interested 10<sup>th</sup> District Residents  
**From:** Rep. Frank R. Wolf *FRW*  
**Date:** May 16, 2007  
**Re:** Power Lines Update

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I want to share with you the enclosed news release that includes my statement at a public meeting on May 15 in Crystal City held by the Department of Energy (DOE) to solicit comments on the recently released draft National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor designations. I continue to be extremely concerned about the scope of these designations – which include all of the 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District as well as parts of 10 other states – as well as the limited number of public hearings and short public comment period.

My office has coordinated a joint congressional letter signed by more than 40 House and Senate members to Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman calling on DOE to hold public meetings in every congressional district impacted by the proposed designations and to extend the comment period by at least 30 days. It is unacceptable that DOE is not providing ample opportunity for all impacted states and localities to weigh in on the process for designating massive transmission power line corridors.

I also continue to work with my colleagues in Congress to address this issue, including consideration of offering restrictions on funding for the Department of Energy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to implement these designations; participating in a hearing held by the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on transmission line corridors; pushing to get the Energy and Commerce Committee to consider legislation introduced by both myself and Rep. Maurice Hinchey from New York questioning the necessity of DOE's power line plan, and partnering with the efforts by citizens speaking out in opposition to the corridor designations. For more information on these efforts please visit my Web site at [wolf.house.gov](http://wolf.house.gov).

Please be assured that I will continue to do all I can on the federal level to stop destruction of valuable historic, environmental, scenic and cultural landscapes in this region.

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N E W S R E L E A S E

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For Immediate Release  
May 15, 2007

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## **WOLF TELLS DOE THAT STATES AND LOCALITIES MUST HAVE SAY IN DESIGNATING POWER LINE CORRIDORS**

*Announces Letter Signed by 40-plus Members of Congress Requesting More Public Meetings*

Arlington, VA – Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10th) today told the Department of Energy that states and localities must have a say in the process of designating huge corridors for massive transmission power lines.

Speaking at a DOE public meeting in Crystal City, Wolf announced that he was sending a letter to DOE Secretary Samuel Bodman signed by more than 40 Members of Congress requesting that DOE hold meetings in every congressional district impacted by the proposed designations. The letter also requests that the comment period be extended by at least 30 days.

“The states and localities impacted by these proposed designations need to have a say in the process,” Wolf said. “We can't have huge transmission power lines cutting through existing neighborhoods or over huge swaths of open space, especially over historically significant land, and deny local communities the opportunity to weigh in.”

Wolf also said he was disappointed that DOE did not take into account legislation he introduced in February along with Rep. Tom Davis (R-11th) aimed at providing guidance in developing the proposed national interest electric transmission corridors.

Below is the complete text of Wolf's remarks:

*“Good afternoon. I appreciate your allowing me to speak today.*

*“This is an extremely important issue and one that should be thoroughly vetted, particularly when you consider the magnitude of the areas being considered for these transmission corridors.*

*“The Mid-Atlantic designation alone stretches across eight states and the District of Columbia, encompassing more than 100,000 square miles and a population of almost 50 million people. Yet no environmental impact study has been conducted. No consideration of*

*alternatives to building transmission facilities has been given. No adequate consultation with affected states, communities and landowners has taken place. And, if approved, this designation would be in place for 12 years.*

*“This IS a major federal action which requires a environmental impact statement.*

*“The states and localities impacted by these proposed designations need to have a say in the process. We can't have huge transmission power lines cutting through existing neighborhoods or over huge swaths of open space, especially over historically significant land, and deny local communities the opportunity to weigh in.*

*“In Virginia alone, the historical significance of some of the land that would fall under the designation is unparalleled. It is the land that George Washington surveyed, inspired Thomas Jefferson and was walked by James Monroe. In Maryland and Pennsylvania, the Civil War battlefields of Antietam and Gettysburg lie within the designated corridor. In New York, proposed lines could go along the Upper Delaware Scenic River Basin, a habitat and scenic treasure that many have worked to protect.*

*“Today I am sending a letter to Secretary Bodman signed by more than 40 members of Congress – including my two Senators, John Warner and Jim Webb – asking that public meetings be held in every congressional district impacted by these designations and that the comment period be extended by at least 30 days.*

*“The federal government should not just run roughshod over these communities. It's not right.*

*“Earlier this year I, along with my good friend and colleague Tom Davis, introduced H.R. 829, the National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor Clarification Act, to help provide some guidance in developing these corridors. I was hoping DOE would take into consideration the spirit of the proposed legislation in coming up with these designations while it worked its way through Congress. Sadly, it didn't.*

*“While I fully recognize that our power supplies must be adequate and reliable, I am concerned that these "national interest" designations will permit utility companies to continue to ignore the need for smart grid technology, superconductor wires and cleaner energy generation. I also believe they will thwart attempts by states, local governments and regulatory commissions to operate under a comprehensive energy plan. Moreover, state regulatory authorities will lose any leverage they have over utility companies to promote smart energy usage.*

*“Again, I understand the need for reliable power, but ALL avenues must be explored as this process goes forward, and more than just what is best for a company's bottom line must be considered. Thank you.”*