



July 30, 2019

The Honorable Mazie Hirono
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hirono:

The GridWise Alliance (GridWise) applauds your ongoing leadership on grid modernization issues, including on grid modernization demonstration projects. We are writing to express our strong appreciation and support for the introduction of your *Next Generation Electric Systems Act of 2019*. GridWise consists of electric utilities, information and communications technology equipment and service providers, national laboratories, academic institutions, Regional Transmission Operators (RTOs) and Independent System Operators (ISOs), and more.¹

Creating the ability for a range of public and private stakeholders to demonstrate promising innovative, bold grid modernization technologies and capabilities remains vitally important. At the same time, providing federal support to the entities conducting such demonstrations to minimize their risks will be extremely beneficial. As you are aware, a wide array of federal programs has contributed significantly to market advances in the private sector by having provided support and having mitigated such risks. For these reasons, grid modernization demonstration projects continue to be a top priority for the GridWise Alliance and its members.

GridWise looks forward to continuing to work with you and to serving as an ongoing resource. GridWise hopes your legislation will achieve bipartisan, bicameral support, so it can be enacted into law.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "S. Hauser".

Steven G. Hauser
CEO
GridWise Alliance

¹ National laboratories, RTOs/ISOs, and BPA do not participate in GridWise's advocacy/lobbying activities.