



February 27, 2024

Dear Members of the Utah State Legislature:

The Pew Charitable Trusts is a non-partisan organization dedicated to improving the public good by using sound research and data, creating common ground, and advancing policy that leads to tangible progress. Pew's Energy Modernization Project seeks to make meaningful progress toward a modern, reliable electric grid.

Pew strongly supports SB191, a bill introduced by Senator Blouin and Representative Albrecht, to promote the utilization of Grid Enhancing Technologies ("GETs"). GETs are deployable solutions to grid congestion that increase transmission capacity, reduce curtailment of energy generation, boost grid reliability, reduce emissions, and can provide ratepayer savings.<sup>1</sup> SB191 directs utilities to analyze the cost effectiveness and timetables for deploying GETs to meet electric grid needs, providing a considered approach to implementing these innovations. If the Utah Public Service Commission determines GETs to be cost-effective, it shall approve deployment and cost recovery of these upgrades.

Grid congestion has been a growing issue nationwide, particularly due to lack of transmission capacity, resulting in increasingly long interconnection queues for new generation projects and curtailment of existing energy generation. Utah can join a handful of leading states, such as Montana,<sup>2</sup> in modernizing and improving the reliability of the grid by deploying cost-effective technology to enhance existing infrastructure. Studies have shown that GET investments in congested areas could pay for themselves within 6 months of full operations by allowing lower cost generation resources to supply the grid,<sup>3</sup> and lead to net savings that far exceed the cost of the technologies.<sup>4</sup>

As one of the nation's fastest growing states, Utah can help ensure its electric grid can continue to meet the needs of businesses and residents by enacting SB191 and enabling and accelerating the deployment of grid enhancing technologies.

Sincerely,

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<sup>1</sup> The Brattle Group, <https://watt-transmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Building-a-Better-Grid-How-Grid-Enhancing-Technologies-Complement-Transmission-Buildouts.pdf> (2023)

<sup>2</sup> Montana State Legislature, <https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2023/billpdf/HB0729.pdf> (2023)

<sup>3</sup> The Brattle Group, [https://watt-transmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Brattle\\_Unlocking-the-Queue-with-Grid-Enhancing-Technologies\\_Final-Report\\_Public-Version.pdf90.pdf](https://watt-transmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Brattle_Unlocking-the-Queue-with-Grid-Enhancing-Technologies_Final-Report_Public-Version.pdf90.pdf) (2021)

<sup>4</sup> Idaho National Laboratory, <https://inl.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/A-Guide-to-Case-Studies-for-Grid-Enhancing-Technologies.pdf> (2022)