



**N A R U C**  
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

The Honorable John Boozman  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

July 21, 2015

**RE: S.485 “Assuring Private Property Rights Over Vast Access to Land Act”**

Dear Senator Boozman:

The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) would like to offer our support for S. 485, the “Assuring Private Property Rights Over Vast Access to Land Act” (the APPROVAL Act) and we commend you for introducing the legislation.

NARUC has a long standing position that the siting of electric transmission facilities should be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the States, notwithstanding the limited “backstop” siting provision in Section 1221 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 – which NARUC strongly opposed. We continue to believe that Congress should not expand federal authority over transmission siting either through amendments to the Federal Power Act or through other federal legislation.

Since 2005, Congress and the federal government agencies have attempted to establish federal eminent domain authority for electric transmission at the expense of the States. Your bill begins the process of restraining this federal overreach by placing eminent domain authority with the States for projects carried out by the Secretary of the Department of Energy, the Southwestern Power Administration (SWAPA), and the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA.)

We thank you for your common sense legislation and your efforts to limit the expansion of federal jurisdiction in area of transmission siting.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Gray  
Executive Director