

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 8, 2025

Ambassador Jamieson Greer
U.S. Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Greer,

We write to urge you to prioritize and raise the ongoing and escalating discriminating trade practices imposed by the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) against Montana energy firms trading in the Alberta electricity market with your counterparts in Alberta and Canada. If unaddressed, these measures may impose significant economic harm on American energy producers, jeopardize the reliability of cross-border electricity infrastructure, and perpetuate discriminatory trade practices that undermine domestic energy security.

As you know, Montana's electrical grid is interconnected with Alberta's through the Montana-Alberta Tie Line. This intertie facilitates important cross-border electricity trade and is a vital component of grid stability, both in Montana and Canada. Unfortunately, the AESO's current rules and practices flatly discriminate against U.S. electricity imports. Furthermore, the AESO is currently proposing potential changes to the Alberta electricity market design that would worsen existing protectionist practices by further excluding U.S. energy imports. This will result in diminished market access by imposing unfair costs on American producers and putting them at a distinct disadvantage to deliver reliable and affordable electricity. Additionally, not only will these policies deter future investment in Montana's electric grid, but may also undermine Montana's grid reliability. Whereas Montana's grid meets North American Electric Reliability Corporation standards for reliability and safety, the AESO has significantly deviated from these standards. As a result, it relies on uncompensated frequency response from the Montana grid. Under certain conditions, this may undermine the reliability of Montana's electricity grid. For areas that see extreme cold snaps with temperatures plunging well below zero degrees Fahrenheit, safe and reliable electricity can mean the difference between life and death.

We understand that concerned parties have provided detailed analysis of the proposed actions that are currently under consideration in Alberta and the potential harms to the domestic energy sector that may ensue as a result of these actions. Montana is uniquely vulnerable to these discriminatory practices and we urge you to consider these policies in future negotiations with the Canadian government. Until the Government of Alberta amends its regulatory framework to require a level playing field between Alberta- and U.S.-based energy producers participating in the Alberta electricity market, Montana will continue to be negatively impacted by the lack of reciprocity.

While we appreciate your attention into this matter as stated in the 2025 National Trade Estimate, we request that you employ all available tools at your disposal to bring about a swift resolution to this ongoing issue.

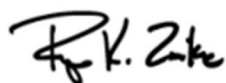
Sincerely,



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Tim Sheehy
United States Senator



Ryan K. Zinke
Member of Congress



Troy Downing
Member of Congress