

JEFF KENNEDY, *President/Business Manager*
CODY LEE, *Vice President*

ERIC CLARK, *Financial Secretary*
AARON BITTLE, *Treasurer*
JASON COLE, *Recording Secretary*

**International
Electrical**

LOCAL 1474



**Brotherhood
Workers**

P. O. BOX 1104
JOPLIN, MO. 64802

U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20585



March 7, 2023

***Re: IBEW Local Union 1474 Letter of Support for The Empire District Electric Company's
Distribution Automation (DA) IJA GRIP Application.***

To Whom it May Concern,

IBEW Local Union 1474 provides this letter of support relating to The Empire District Electric Company's ("Empire" or "the Company") applications being submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership ("GRIP") program. Specifically, the Union hereby supports Empire's application for the Distribution Automation Project ("Project DA"), which seeks to significantly enhance the degree to which Empire's distribution system is equipped with devices capable of automatically restoring load after certain types of outages. In its application, Empire seeks funding for the deployment of smart grid devices, namely automatic reclosers and supporting communications and controls infrastructure, to enable distribution automation on select feeders. This Company initiative is expected to yield significant reliability performance enhancements, improve grid resilience in multiple States (MO, OK, KS, AR), introduce smart grid technologies in various communities and generally support a transformative shift in technological maturity, and provide operational efficiencies and cost savings.

The L.U. 1474 fully supports the Company's Project DA. L.U. 1474 is encouraged by the Company's efforts to continue investing in critical infrastructure reinforcement, and especially in a way that helps manage the associated rate impact for its customers, most of whom are also the residents of the communities that Empire serves. We are particularly encouraged by the opportunities for additional job creation and training - including those for unionized employees -- that Project DA is positioned to bring to our local areas. The increase in the scope and scale of modern Smart Grid equipment that Project DA would bring also offers an opportunity for our members to acquire and develop new inspection, maintenance, and troubleshooting skills for these devices and appropriate safety protocols.

Should Empire be successful in securing the grant application for Project DA, L.U. 1474 commits to working with the Company's management to explore all feasible avenues for partnership - including development and execution of training programs for members and apprentices in technical areas relevant to the Project, exploring ways to attract the greatest amount of local talent to the Project's various facets, developing new maintenance and safety protocols, and others. We expect to be approached for these discussions once the DOE's funding for Project DA is confirmed.

As proud and longtime stewards of Empire's distribution system, L.U. 1474 can attest to the need for Project DA from both technical and economic development perspectives for the communities we serve and we encourage DOE to grant the Company's application and fully fund Project DA.

Sincerely,

Jeff Kennedy,

President/Business manager IBEW Local Union 1474

Cody Lee,

Vice President



Billy Friend
Chief

**8 Turtle Drive
Wyandotte, OK 74370**

Norman Hildebrand, Jr.
2nd Chief

**Phone: 918-678-2297
Fax: 918-678-2944**

March 9, 2023

Re: United States Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office.

To whom it may concern:

As Chief of the Wyandotte Nation, a federally recognized Indian tribe located in Northeast Oklahoma. I am writing this letter in support of Liberty Utilities efforts to obtain an infrastructure grant under the 2021 Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act for Distribution Automation.

As a major customer of Liberty Utilities, the project would deploy up to 400 distribution automation devices across its feeders in all four states served by Liberty. Known as autoreclosers, the devices are capable of restoring power automatically after clearing an electrical fault caused by events like tree branch, animal, or wind-blown debris contacts – which are among the top 10 causes of outages. This means fewer and shorter interruptions on the circuits where the devices can be placed, and lower operating costs as crews would not need to be dispatched to restore power for every outage. The company projects that the total outage times and incidences would be reduced by half if the program were implemented as conceived. All of the aforementioned benefits would greatly enhance the services we receive from Liberty that are required to operate our businesses and supply energy to our tribal housing projects.

The Wyandotte Nation supports Liberty's request for DOE funds and encourages your favorable consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Billy Friend". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Chief Billy Friend



CARL JUNCTION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Central Office

206 South Roney Street
Carl Junction, MO 64834

Telephone: 417.649.7026
Office Fax: 417.649.6594
Website: www.CJR1.org

Dr. Phillip Cook

Superintendent
pcook@cjr1.org

Dr. David Pyle

Asst. Superintendent
dpyle@cjr1.org

Dr. Theresa Wilson

Asst. Superintendent
twilson@cjr1.org

March 13, 2023

To: United States Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office

From: Carl Junction R-1 School District

Re: Letter of Support – Distribution Automation Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Carl Junction School District, I am writing to express my support for Empire-Liberty's application to receive funding for the Distribution Automation Grant. We consider Empire-Liberty a great community partner, and we know the value this project could potentially have on both our school and community.

The Distribution Automation project proposes to install 400 auto-reclosers that would be capable of automatically restoring power for a wide variety of outages without the need to dispatch crews. This project also proposes to reduce the overall frequency and duration of outages. Our school and community will benefit from outage cost avoidance, while realizing increased economic activity during the program's timeline.

The Distribution Automation project would be a valuable investment in our community's infrastructure. We fully support this initiative and look forward to its implementation.

Best Regards,

David Pyle, Ed.D.



City Manager Office
602 S Main Street
Joplin, Missouri 64801
417-624-0820, ext. 1203

March 7, 2023

Ms. Maria Robinson, Director
United States Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington DC 20585

Re: Empire-Liberty Utilities Infrastructure Investments

On behalf of the City of Joplin, Missouri, I want to provide our full support in Liberty Utilities' investment efforts and pursuit of 2021 Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act funding support. These types of efforts are vital for our community and business growth and continuity.

Liberty Utilities is a major community and regional partner across many efforts of the City of Joplin, and they are a collaborative and vested partner in our planned development. Their continued investments in Joplin provide the backbone of our business, residential and industrial growth ensuring consistent and reliable coverage.

Liberty also works through a variety of partner organizations and initiative in Joplin, serving on boards and commissions invested in the development of Joplin and our regional community. Their clean energy investments in generation, distribution and transmission extend beyond the city's borders well into these regional partners creating synergy and interconnected reliability for our future. Their continued investments in our business and industrial parks, as well as related economic development initiatives directly contribute to our success and planned growth and development.

Liberty is an excellent partner and we are hopeful of these funding pursuits for shared success.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Tony W. Robyn".

Tony Robyn
Assistant City Manager



03/13/2023

United States Department of Energy

Grid Deployment Office

Ref: Liberty Utilities Grid Innovation Partnership Grant Request/Distribution Automation

To Whom it May Concern,

Please accept this letter as support for Liberty Utilities request for funding through the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Innovation Partnership Program.

Liberty Utilities is the primary provider of electric services to the residents and businesses of Gentry, Arkansas.

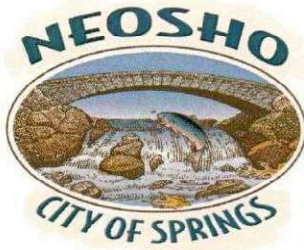
The proposed installation of 400 auto reclosers offers the recognized potential benefits of,

1. Increased reliability
2. An average reduction of 50% in outage frequency and duration
3. Economic benefits to customers due to outage cost avoidance
4. Ability to complete planned work at 50% of the cost with grant approval. Essentially saving rate payers, which includes those who are most vulnerable, such as those who are on fixed incomes.
5. Increased economic activity during the program's installation timeline

I am hopeful you too can see the benefits of this project and ask for your consideration of its approval.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Kevin Johnston
Mayor
City of Gentry, Arkansas



City of Neosho

203 E. Main St.
Neosho, MO 64850
(417) 451-8050 phone
(417) 451-8065 fax
www.neoshomo.org

March 6, 2023

United States Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office

Re: 2021 Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act

The City of Neosho would like to ask your consideration in accepting this letter of support to the Empire District Electric Company – Liberty for their application for 2021 Infrastructure Investments and Job Act grant.

The City of Neosho is a town in Southwest Missouri that is served electric by Liberty and consists roughly of around 12,000 citizens and 2,100 commercial businesses and industries. Interruptions in power supply have a great impact on the city, its residents and businesses. The value for quicker restoration during outage and less outages altogether.

Our mission statement for the City of Neosho is *'Providing our citizens with a safe, peaceful, thriving environment while blending our historic past into a brighter future.'* We are proud to support the efforts of Empire-Liberty which will only help us to continue to live out our mission. We are committed to exploring any possible avenue for partnership and support that may be feasible and acceptable under the grant rules.

Sincerely,

Tyler DeWitt
City of Neosho, MO

DR. KATRICIA G. PIERSON

President

417.455.5534 | President@Crowder.edu
601 Laclede | Neosho, MO 64850



3 March 2023

United States Department of Energy
Grid Deployment Office

RE: Distribution Automation Grant for Liberty Utilities

To whom it may concern:

Please consider Liberty Utilities for the distribution automation grant. As I understand it, the project would entail the installation of 400 auto reclosers which would automatically restore power for a wide variety of outages without the need to deploy a crew.

Crowder College has been a Liberty customer, and before that, an Empire District Electric Company customer for as long as the college has been in existence. We depend on reliable energy. We are a residential college and the majority of the students living on campus are 18 years old. When we lose electricity, learning stops.

It is a given that when a classroom is dark and the technology doesn't work, the instructor can do little interactive teaching. The student cannot participate fully because of the distraction. Likewise, feeling safe is one of the greatest conduits to learning. We all feel vulnerable when we do not have reliable electricity. Many of our students are living away from home for the first time and should the electricity be disrupted in the evening or early morning hours, they feel particularly vulnerable.

We are hopeful you will consider awarding the distribution automation grant to Liberty Utilities so that we have increased reliability and a reduction of outage frequency and duration. Reduced outages would also mean that the costs to deploy crews is reduced thereby keeping the customer costs low. Low energy cost means we can keep the cost of education low.

Your grant helps Liberty Utilities which in turns helps many people in our community.

Sincerely,

Katricia G. Pierson, PhD
President



Date: March 5, 2023
To: United States Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office
From: John Newby, President & CEO, McDonald County Chamber
Re: 2023 Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act

On behalf of The McDonald County Chamber of Commerce and our Board of Directors, please accept this letter of support to The Empire District Electric Company – Liberty, in their application for 2023 Infrastructure Investments and Job Act grant.

Reliable power has a great impact on the community. As an area that is experiencing growth and will continue to experience this growth, we are excited to hear about the Distribution Automation Project that will help address these issues. We understand that our community falls within the Department's List of Vulnerable Communities and will also stand to benefit economically, socially and in other ways from this focused, multi-year effort. We are excited and committed to exploring any possible avenue for partnership and support that may be feasible and acceptable under the grant rules.

The McDonald County Chamber Serves all of McDonald County with a current population of approximately 24,000.

We are proud to partner with the efforts of Empire-Liberty which will only help us to continue to live out our mission.

Sincerely,

John Newby
President & CEO
McDonald County Chamber of Commerce

United States Department of Energy
Grid Deployment Office
1000 Independence Ave. SW
Washington DC 20585



1102 West 32nd Street | Joplin, MO 64804 | 417.347.1111
freemanhealth.com

March 10, 2023

RE: Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act
Letter of Support for Liberty Utilities – Distribution Automation Grant

To Whom It May Concern:

Freeman Health System is pleased to submit this letter of support for Liberty Utilities in their pursuit of an infrastructure grant under the 2021 Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, as part of a Distribution Automation project.

The Distribution Automation project proposes to install 400 auto-reclosers that would be capable of automatically restoring power for a wide variety of outages without the need to send crew members.

Freeman Health System provides critical healthcare services at over 50 off-site locations in addition to the three hospitals. These off-site clinics and dialysis centers depend on continuous, reliable electrical power from Liberty Utilities.

In our dialysis clinics, electrical machinery functions as an artificial kidney connected to a patient's vascular system. Each treatment lasts four hours or longer. An interruption of electrical power while a patient is on treatment requires an emergency intervention from the dialysis nurse to "hand crank" a patient's blood back into their body. Quick restoration of electrical power is vital to the safety of these patients.

Please accept Freeman Health System's letter of support for Liberty Utilities in their pursuit of an infrastructure grant from the United States Department of Energy, Grid Deployment Office. It would result in benefits to our Health System, but equally important, it would result in significant benefits for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Daniel Caylor'.

Daniel Caylor,
System Director of Facilities Management

Freeman Health System
1102 West 32nd Street
Joplin Missouri, 64804
417-347-6664

Fair Play R-2 School District
"Home of the Hornets"

Administration

Dr. David Geurin, Superintendent
Phone: (417) 654-2231
Fax: (417) 654-5028

Josh Dobson, H.S. Principal
Phone: (417) 654-2232
Fax: (417) 654-3503

Erin Howard, Elem. Principal
Phone: (417) 654-2233
Fax: (417) 654-2800



301 North Walnut Street
Fair Play, Missouri 65649
Fax: (417) 654-5028

Board of Education

Paula Bradford, President
Tiffany Phillips, Vice President
Cindy Bruce, Treasurer
Joyce Dennis, Secretary

Members

Caleb Whaley
Jennifer Schwartz
Lauren West
Greg Bass

Dear United States Department of Energy-Grid Deployment Office,

I am writing to express my full support for Empire/Liberty's effort to secure funding for the proposed Distribution Automation (DA) project. We have enjoyed a good partnership with Liberty Utilities and know this would benefit our school and community. This project aims to install 400 auto-reclosers that would automatically restore power during a variety of outages, without the need to send crew members. I believe that this project would bring significant benefits to the community, the customers, and the economy.

One of the most notable benefits of the DA project is the increased reliability it offers. The auto-reclosers will ensure that power is restored in a timely manner, reducing the likelihood of prolonged outages that can cause significant inconvenience and hardship to customers. The project would also help to reduce the frequency and duration of outages, resulting in an average reduction of 50%.

Furthermore, the economic benefits of the project cannot be overstated. Our school will benefit from outage cost avoidance, while the utility will be able to complete planned work at 50% of the cost with grant approval. Additionally, the installation of the auto-reclosers will create increased economic activity during the program's timeline, providing much-needed job opportunities for the community.

In conclusion, I believe that the Distribution Automation project is a valuable investment in our community's infrastructure. Its implementation would greatly improve reliability, reduce outages, and bring economic benefits to our school and the entire community. I strongly urge you to support the utility's effort to secure government funding for this important project.

Let me know if I can be of further assistance, (417)654-2231.

Yours in education,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Geurin".

David Geurin, Ed.D.
Superintendent



March 13, 2023

United States Department of Energy,
Grid Deployment Office

RE: Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act Grant

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter in full support of Liberty Utilities IIJA grant application for their Distribution Automation (DA) project and the Most Vulnerable Feeder Reinforcement project. This grant would help Liberty install equipment that would allow increased economic growth, improve system reliability and safety concerns within Christian County.

These projects would have a positive impact on economic development and workforce development within Christian County. There is an opportunity to engage local students with hands-on learning training and potential employment, as well as improve the reliability in services to businesses. The outage times would decrease significantly with the installation of the new equipment. A preliminary study indicates that DA deployment would help reduce outage frequency and duration by 50%. This project would also decrease call volumes, dispatching crews, and exposure to their workforce.

This project would also bring approximately 10%-15% additional economic activity into the area for up to 5 years. According to a study, over a 20-year project timeline, this project would deliver a total of \$520M in economic benefits as well.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristen Haseltine".

Kristen Haseltine, MBA
President & CEO
Christian County Business Development Corporation
DBA Show Me Christian County