



April 18, 2008

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Office of the Governor
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Manchin:

On behalf of our respective unions, and the 10.5 million members of the AFL-CIO, we write to urge you to support the Trans Allegheny Interstate Line (TrAIL), a 500 kilovolt electric transmission line proposed to run between Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Loudoun County, Virginia.

Experts at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation agree that major investments in our electricity grid are needed. The demand for electricity continues to grow, and our capacity to transmit power is not keeping pace. TrAIL will allow electricity to be transmitted from where it is generated to where it is needed.

Building this line will create nearly 700 jobs during the construction phase. When completed, TrAIL will benefit the region in other ways, too, including expanding markets for locally-mined coal along with the potential for new power generating projects that could include such environmentally-friendly technologies as clean-coal, wind and hydroelectric.

A lack of action could result in crippling blackouts and brownouts beginning in 2011, to say nothing of the potential job loss. A strong power system with affordable, reliable electric transmission is a must for attracting new business and industry. We strongly urge you to support the Trans Allegheny Interstate Line.

Sincerely,

John J. Sweeney
President
AFL-CIO

Cecil E. Roberts
President
UMWA

Edwin D. Hill
International President
IBEW

Michael Langford
President
UWUA

/ceb

Copy to Sandra Squire, Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia