

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 27, 2023

The Honorable Deb Haaland  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland,

We write in support of exploring the concept of the co-location of renewable and fossil energy production and what expedited permitting processes may be possible for areas found suitable for co-location.

Expediting the co-location of energy projects could help deliver clean energy to consumers and the grid more quickly. An analysis of our nation's mineral and renewable energy resources shows that there are numerous appropriate co-location sites that contain renewable and mineral potential.

Please respond to the following questions to help us determine if this concept should be further explored:

1. Is there a process at the Department of the Interior (DOI) to permit a surface use (such as wind and solar) atop a current subsurface use (such as natural gas or geothermal)?
2. Given the existing regulatory framework, is it possible for DOI to approve solar and wind energy permits on lease lands held by fossil fuel companies with their consent and collaboration?
3. Given the existing regulatory framework, what tools and processes are available to DOI that could be used to incentivize and encourage co-location?
4. Would Congress need to pass legislation for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to engage in co-location permitting?
5. Do you believe existing right of ways allow for suitable transmission capacity for co-location or will further authorizations be needed? How should this issue be considered with co-location given BLM's existing permitting structure?

Co-location is a promising collaboration to responsibly scale energy deployment and innovatively deliver on our nation's energy needs. We look forward to hearing back from you and working together to advance our energy future.

Sincerely,



John Curtis  
Member of Congress



Mike Levin  
Member of Congress