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## **WIRES Shines Light on Potentially Missed Opportunities For American Workers**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – In a July 15 session at the U.S. Capitol, a panel of experts made clear that expansion or upgrading of the nation's electric grid could produce up to 200,000 jobs each year for the next 20 years, if various regulatory obstacles can be overcome.

At a time when the economy is struggling to produce 18,000 a month, WIRES' panel of experts proposed a major shot in the arm to the nation's sagging employment picture, and a way to make good on the visionary statements coming from Washington about restoring America's infrastructure.

The panel, including the Brattle Group economist who authored WIRES' [authoritative report](#) on the economic and employment benefits of electric transmission construction, explored the types of jobs that transmission construction and manufacturing will produce, as the U.S. moves to meet the growing demand for electricity and expanding wholesale power markets, address the reliability concerns created by an aging grid, and to reach the new onshore and offshore renewable generation resources that public policy is encouraging.

"Investors see the opportunities but we cannot take a strong grid for granted," said Jim Hoecker, former FERC Chairman and WIRES counsel who moderated the meeting. "We will need to build \$300 billion of transmission in the next twenty years. It will take a strategic plan, state-federal cooperation, and a stronger commitment to overcome the planning, cost recovery, and siting obstacles that could result in this transmission renaissance being stillborn."

A video recording of the briefing, along with copies of materials used by presenters, [is available here](#).

The July 15 session, co-sponsored by the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI), was the 9<sup>th</sup> in a series of WIRES University briefings on electric transmission. Summaries and background materials for all sessions are available on the WIRES Web site at <http://www.wiresgroup.com/wiresuniversity.html>

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*WIRES (Working group for Investment in Reliable and Economic electric Systems) is a non-profit trade association of transmission providers, customers, and equipment and service companies formed to promote investment in electric transmission and progressive State and Federal policies that advance energy markets, economic efficiency, and consumer and environmental benefits through development of electric power infrastructure. For more information, visit [www.wiresgroup.com](http://www.wiresgroup.com) or contact Jim Hoecker at 202-378-2316.*