

UTILITY WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA

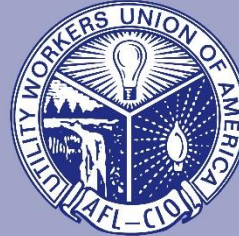
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May 17, 2023

Ms. Maria Robinson
Director, Grid Deployment Office
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Director Robinson,

The Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA), representing some 45,000 workers in the electric, gas and water utility sectors across the U.S., is pleased to offer this letter of support for the State of Michigan's proposal titled "*Public-Private Partnership to Drive Grid and Climate Resiliency Through Combined Remote Sensing Technologies.*"

This innovative partnership aligns with our mission to power America in a tech-neutral manner, ensuring the lights stay on, that our members work safely, and that community health and well-being are protected. Working through the UWUA's long-standing partnership with Consumers Energy – one of the main utility sub-recipients of this award – our union has worked for many years to build the workforce necessary to make these goals a reality.

Collecting LiDAR data and creating a high-resolution three-dimensional model of the state's geography will have a direct impact on UWUA members' safety while working on the electric grid and water systems by providing improved visibility of utility assets for better planning of field maintenance and construction projects. This in turn will reduce the number of hazardous wire-down repairs necessary due to tree-caused outages, improving safety for both workers and the public.

Further, forestry management, infrastructure inspections, renewable energy siting, mapping & surveying, and more would be empowered by this technology – all providing opportunities for new developments in support of highly-skilled, family and community-supporting union jobs.

The UWUA looks forward to partnering with the State of Michigan and its utility partners in this effort and strongly encourages the Department of Energy to fully fund this historic public-private partnership that will help provide greater visibility into our infrastructure, land, water, and natural resources.

Sincerely,

James T. Slevin
National President
Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO