



U.S. SENATOR MARIA CANTWELL

WASHINGTON

The U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program was authorized by the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The BIL included multiple historic investments championed by Sen. Cantwell to make our nation's electricity grid more reliable, resilient, and able to integrate renewable energy sources and stand up to increasingly frequent and intense weather events.

As a senior member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Sen. Cantwell authored three major transmission provisions ultimately incorporated [and funded by the BIL](#):

- \$3 billion to restart [the Smart Grid Investment Grant Program](#), first authored by Sen. Cantwell in 2007, that will boost private sector investment in a range of technologies needed to modernize our nation's grid. **The GRIP grants announced today come from this program.**
- \$2.5 billion to establish a new Transmission Facilitation Program that will support new transmission lines or upgrade existing lines by authorizing DOE to buy a portion of the planned line's electricity capacity, which DOE may then sell back to the market, after the project has been developed;
- \$10 billion increase in borrowing authority for Bonneville Power Association (BPA) to assist financing of the construction, acquisition, and replacement of certain parts of the Federal Columbia River Power System. In July, BPA [announced](#) it would move forward with over \$2 billion in electricity grid improvement projects in the Pacific Northwest thanks to this increased borrowing authority secured by Sen. Cantwell.

Sen. Cantwell has long championed investments in smart grid technologies that can improve the efficiency and resiliency of our nation's electricity grid. She authored the Smart Grid Title of the 2007 Energy Bill, pioneering smart grid legislation that created the [smart grid R&D program at the Department of Energy](#) (which was expanded in the BIL); required the development of an [interoperability framework](#); established a [federal matching grant program](#); created a [Smart Grid Advisory Committee](#) to advise the federal government on the deployment of smart grid technologies; initiated [a Smart Grid Task Force](#) to coordinate the federal government's smart grid policies; and encouraged state utility regulatory commissions to allow for rate recovery for smart grid investments.

In 2009, Sen. Cantwell pushed to include \$4.5 billion in the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* for smart grid investments, funding which is authorized by Cantwell's Smart Grid Title in the 2007 Energy Bill. In February 2009, Cantwell organized Smart Grid Conference in Spokane attended by around 300 regional stakeholders to help coordinate a regional bid for a Smart Grid Demonstration Project. In November 2009, the Energy Department [awarded \\$88 million](#) dollars, the largest award in the country, to launch the Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project which was [used](#) to install a smart grid framework including a digital telecommunications network, substation automation and a robust distribution system infrastructure.