A new report by M.J. Bradley & Associates, *Powering America: The Economic and Workforce Contributions of the U.S. Electric Power Industry*, gives a comprehensive analysis of the economic and employment contributions of the electric power industry. The report is based on an economic impact study performed by Economic Modeling Specialists International using official, government-collected data, and was conducted for the Edison Electric Institute, the American Public Power Association, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The study finds that the electric power industry supports more than 7 million jobs in communities throughout the country—that’s 1 in every 20 American jobs.

- The electric power industry directly provides nearly 2.7 million jobs across the United States through its employees, contractors and supply chain, and investments.

- Moreover, more than 4.4 million jobs are supported through the induced effects of these direct jobs.

- Each job directly provided by the electric power industry supports an additional 1.7 jobs in our communities.

The U.S. electric power industry plays a vital role in supporting jobs, spurring economic growth, and developing and deploying smarter energy infrastructure critical for America’s energy future.

*Induced jobs are spread throughout the economy and include many positions that are the result of paycheck spending by workers and government spending to support the communities around those workers. (As an example, induced jobs can range from elementary school teachers to medical doctors to real estate professionals, not to mention the many jobs in the service economy.)*
Infrastructure Investment and Economic Contributions

The electric power industry is the most capital-intensive industry in the United States. The industry’s investments benefit customers and support jobs dedicated to building smarter energy infrastructure and to creating a cleaner generation fleet.

- The electric power industry invests more than $100 billion per year to build smarter, cleaner, and more resilient energy infrastructure.

- In total, the electric power industry’s economic impact is $880 billion annually—approximately 5 percent of the nation’s total GDP.

Job Quality

Electric companies provide more than just good pay and good benefits.

- On average, employees work in the industry for more than 15 years, in careers that support their families and anchor them in their communities.

- In 2015, median annual wages for electric power industry employee jobs were $73,000—double the national median.

Workforce Development and Military Hiring

The electric power industry is committed to supporting employees today and to building tomorrow’s energy workforce.

- Military veteran hiring accounted for more than 10 percent of new hires in the industry as of year-end 2014, the latest year for which data are available.

- Through the Center for Energy Workforce Development (CEWD) and partnerships with educational institutions, public workforce systems, and organized labor, the industry is working to create long-term employment solutions for a skilled, diverse workforce in the future.

- CEWD’s Troops to Energy Jobs program provides job opportunities for veterans, including many without a four-year college degree, and helps veterans transition from the military to rewarding energy careers.

The Bottom Line

- The electric power industry makes deep contributions to our economy and workforce, creating and supporting high-quality jobs in every state.

- The industry’s ongoing substantial investments benefit communities by creating jobs, generating tax revenue, and building the smarter energy infrastructure that will power America’s energy future.

- Behind every wall outlet or light switch, there is a dedicated workforce focused on powering the lives of millions of Americans who rely on electricity for nearly everything they do.