



An Open Letter to the Men and Women of the Electric Power Industry

July 2, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As we head into this holiday weekend, we are writing to thank you for all you do each day to power our nation and to keep the lights on for the customers and the communities you serve. We applaud you for your unwavering dedication and your commitment to safety, particularly as we navigate through these challenging and unprecedented times.

Today, we all are seeing concerning trends in the spread of the coronavirus around the country, and it is more important than ever that we do not let our guards down, either as individuals or as a critical infrastructure industry. We know that electricity and the energy grid are indispensable, and our nation is relying on your essential work during this pandemic.

That is why we are joining together—as labor and electric power industry leaders—to encourage you to stay vigilant and to continue to follow the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on personal hygiene, social distancing, and, most important, the use of masks or face coverings.

As we learn more about this virus, the guidance from the CDC and our nation’s health care experts continues to evolve; we now know that staying at least 6 feet apart and, when unable to do so, wearing a mask saves lives. We also know that we cannot fully restart our economy or return to any type of normalcy until we are able to control the spread of this virus.

Safety is, and has always been, our industry’s number one priority. We have a tremendous opportunity now to lead by example and to serve as role models for our fellow citizens by expanding the safety culture that we practice in our workplaces to our communities.

It is a privilege to work with you, and we wish you a safe and happy Fourth of July.

Sincerely,

Lonnie Stephenson
International President
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

James Slevin
National President
Utility Workers Union of America

Joy Ditto
President & CEO
American Public Power Association

Tom Kuhn
President
Edison Electric Institute

Jim Matheson
CEO
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

