

**Ambassador Henry F. Cooper  
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**Director Michael Coe  
Energy Resilience Division of the Office of Electricity  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Mailstop OE-20, Room 8H-033  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20585**

**June 7, 2021**

**Subject: Notice of Request for Information (RFI) on Ensuring the Continued Security of the United States Critical Electric Infrastructure**

**Dear Director Coe:**

**I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Request for Information (RFI), because I believe that protecting the electric power grid is essential to the viability of most if not all the nation's critical infrastructure. As a Director of the Foundation for Resilient Societies, I share their responses to the specific questions asked, but want to emphasize their comment on the "importance of ensuring that the electric power grid is hardened for cyber and electromagnetic security."**

**In my opinion, based upon a lifetime of dealing with important national security issues, the absence of comprehensive efforts to end the vulnerability of the electric grid is a serious error. So far as I know, there is no semblance of even planning to counter the existential threat from natural and manmade electromagnetic pulse (EMP) effects that could shut down the entire grid for months—leading to the death of most Americans from starvation, disease and societal collapse.**

**A "natural EMP" event—a "Carrington Class Geomagnetic Disruption" will with certainty one day occur—the only issue is when. And a manmade EMP threat is all too real as it is included in the military doctrine of Russia, China, North Korea and Iran—and, while it may seem controversial, I believe they all today have the ability to deliver that threat against our unhardened grid.**

**Ignoring this existential threat is a most serious failure of those sworn under the Constitution to "Provide for the Common Defense." As one who has sworn that oath many times in my career—beginning in the 1960s in protecting our strategic systems against nuclear weapons effects, I find this failure to be most unacceptable, and hope you will include plans to change that history with a sense of urgency—especially since we learned decades ago how to protect against such threats.**

**You may find of interest my May 4, 2017 testimony before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee of some interest in deciding next steps for dealing with these existential threats. Since then, we have demonstrated in South Carolina that it is quite affordable to apply those well-known hardening measures to protect the Distribution Grid, which composes 90-percent of the overall national grid and, so far as I know, is not included in present plans and programs to protect the grid.**

**Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this RFI.**

**Sincerely,**



**Henry F. Cooper**