

Letter to the Editor of the New York Times:

Your Nov. 10 article about the nation's electric grid misstates the point of the report by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC).

The report's key conclusion is that we need to modernize the grid to realize the full potential of our renewable and low-carbon energy resources. As Rick Sergel, NERC CEO, said in releasing the report: "...our success in reducing carbon emissions and realizing energy independence will hinge on our ability to provide reliable, clean, electricity where and when it is needed." While the specter of blackouts makes a good headline, the report did *not* say that putting renewables on the grid will cause blackouts.

Grid procedures already ensure that any changes that would cause blackouts or other reliability issues will not go forward. Bottom line: modernizing the grid makes sense because our antiquated, balkanized, and congested electric grid already costs American consumers tens of billions per year in higher electric rates.

Randall Swisher
Executive Director
American Wind Energy Association
Washington DC

The NERC release and link to report can be found on the NERC Web site at www.nerc.com