



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE, LAW & PUBLIC POLICY

1400 16TH STREET, NW – STE. 101, WASHINGTON, DC 20036
Tel: (202) 462-8800 Fax: (202) 265-6564

Introductory Letter to “Green Electricity or Green Money? Why some environmental groups hamper clean energy” by the National Institute for Science, Law & Public Policy

In the enclosed paper, *“Green Electricity or Green Money? Why some environmental groups hamper clean energy,”* we seek to foster dialogue about possible impediments to courageous leadership by environmental organizations.

In publishing *“Green Electricity or Green Money?”* by Timothy Schoechle, PhD, and the recent white paper *“Getting Smarter About the Smart Grid”*, NISLAPP hopes to encourage advancement of those technologies that can move us forward toward sustainability and through the powerful corporate, political and, in some cases, even nonprofit, roadblocks that hold back a promising transformation of this sector.

One of the most important, but rarely discussed, issues in public policy today is the unfolding arena of public/private collaboration. It is wise to encourage collaboration between nonprofit, socially-concerned organizations and for-profit financially-motivated organizations. Teaming those impulses and capabilities in the right way can produce the best results for individuals and society as a whole.

Unfortunately, as Dr. Schoechle underscores, in the area of power generation and distribution, some collaborations between powerful energy companies and environmental organizations aimed toward fixing the problems of the existing power grid are impeding, rather than advancing, a truly sound, secure, efficient, and democratic system for providing power to homes, businesses, and other power users.

Innovative solutions that rely on distributed, rather than centralized, systems are currently available, and environmental groups would do a great public service by embracing them rather than accepting the current grid system as a given, despite the fact that their corporate partners have a large financial stake in the status quo.

“Green Electricity or Green Money?” aims to highlight the concern that the valuable impulse to collaborate can, without careful consideration, lead to common ground that turns out to be quicksand.

Camilla R. G. Rees, MBA
Senior Policy Advisor

James S. Turner, Esq.
Chairman