

# Advanced Energy Group Q2 2020

*Stakeholder Challenge on Buildings, Grid Modernization and Recovery*

**Taite McDonald, Partner**  
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**Holland & Knight**

# Taite McDonald



**Partner**

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Washington, D.C.

202.469.5200

Taite.McDonald@hkclaw.com

**Taite R. McDonald** is an attorney in Holland & Knight's Washington, D.C., office and a member of the firm's Public Policy & Regulation Group. Ms. McDonald focuses her practice at the intersection of innovation and government. She is especially well versed in running complex, cross-government matters with intricate legal, policy and financing components. Ms. McDonald's is highly knowledgeable in several areas, including energy technology commercialization, federal energy procurement, biofuels, cannabis, hemp, innovative U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) contracting, and government grants and loan guarantees. Ms. McDonald provides counsel to companies of all sizes, from early stage startups to Fortune 100 companies and large utilities. Ms. McDonald regularly plays a pivotal role in assisting clients to overcome gating obstacles and achieve new and innovative legislative objectives for emerging markets and technologies by forging key partnerships with federal agencies, industry, trade groups and other government-facing bodies.

# Introduction and Problem Context

- Current state of our work and initiatives pre-COVID-19
- Status of D.C. and federal government policy making with regard to buildings and grid modernization
  - Many projects are progressing but it's challenging to advance complex and significantly impactful projects
  - Limited intersection between federal, state, and local government initiatives
  - Despite ongoing efforts, this is much more difficult to achieve in our political system than others
- The disconnect between the current federal and state policy making initiatives is more evident than ever in the wake of COVID-19 recovery efforts
- COVID-19 legislative action to date
  - **March 6:** *Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-123)*: Initial \$8.3 billion in emergency funding for federal public health agencies.
  - **March 18:** *Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Public Law 116-127)*: Paid sick leave, tax credits, and free COVID-19 testing.
  - **March 27:** *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or CARES Act (Public Law 116-136)*: \$2.2 trillion in economic and tax relief for individuals and employers.
  - **April 24:** *Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (Public Law 116-139)*: Funding to replenish small business loan programs, health care providers, and COVID-19 testing.
- Where are we now?
  - HEROE's Act – does not include any energy provisions
  - Energy stimulus discussions are continuing on Capitol Hill and in the White House but opportunities remain uncertain and advocacy efforts and campaigns are more strategic than ever

# Benefits & Consequences

- Overcoming these policy hurdles and greater integration of state and federal policy will facilitate and expedite initiatives with regard to buildings, modernization, and recovery
- More comprehensive integration of state and federal policy will not only address climate change but create the jobs necessary for COVID-19 recovery
- 1.3 million energy sector jobs lost since the pandemic according to BW research, 600,000 of which are in clean energy
- *Fiscal measures implemented by government against the novel coronavirus need to be harmonized to combat climate change and ensure an environmentally sustainable recovery from the pandemic – this is not a “nice-to-have” but a must-have if we are to leave a better world for our children*
  - Kristalina Georgieva, IMF Managing Director

# Problem Statement

- ***Regarding Buildings, Grid Modernization and Recovery for Greater DC, we must first address stimulus funding for a large-scale building and grid modernization demonstration program that will overcome critical obstacles, drive short-term recovery, and facilitate energy savings across public and private real estate portfolios.***