



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2026

CONTACT: Marnie Satterfield

(202) 223-1420

msatterfield@ieca-us.org

105 Organizations Urge FERC to Unleash Competition to Increase Electricity Affordability Consistent with President Trump's Pledge to Reduce Electricity Prices and his EO "Reducing Anti-Competitive Regulatory Barriers"

FERC Needs to Stop Protecting Monopolies

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, 105 ratepayer organizations from across the country sent a [letter](#) to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to urge them to fully exercise their authority to reduce the cost of electricity transmission and increase affordability by unleashing competition to the largest extent possible in the regulated electric utility industry.¹ The request is consistent with President Trump's pledge to reduce electricity prices and his Executive Order "Reducing Anti-Competitive Regulatory Barriers."

Paul N. Cicio, President of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America, made the following statement on behalf of ratepayers:

Transmission costs are escalating across the country. For example, in PJM our largest RTO, transmission costs have increased from 6.8 percent to 32 percent of the wholesale price from 2014 to 2024. A 470 percent increase in a time when demand was essentially flat. PJM, MISO, and SPP consumers have long been advocating for more reforms on cost overruns for long-range projects.² Consumers are subjected to excessive transmission charges, including for projects where benefits no longer exceed the costs and for projects that may not even become used and useful. Too many transmission projects enjoy a presumption of prudence that costs are prudently incurred and receive incentives that often result in ROEs of 10-13 percent. FERC has failed to include necessary cost containment requirements.³

¹ 105 Organizations Urge FERC to Unleash Transmission Competition to Increase Electricity Affordability, https://www.ieca-us.org/wp-content/uploads/02.17.26_FERC-Transmission-Affordability-Letter_FINAL.pdf

² Stakeholders Suggest Cost Overruns Ubiquitous as MISO Reviews Long-range Tx Project, RTO Insider, <https://www.rtoinsider.com/123977-stakeholders-suggest-cost-overruns-ubiquitous-miso-reviews-lrtp/>

³ End Use Customer Sector Statement on Transmission Cost Containment at the December 16, 2025 Regional Expansion Criteria and Benefits Working Group (RECBWG) Special Meeting, https://cdn.misoenergy.org/20251216_RECBWG_Item_02_End_Use_Customer_Sector_Comments737624.pdf