



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **FOURTEEN MONTHS LATER – FERC HAS NOT RESPONDED TO RATEPAYERS’ COMPLAINT TO ADDRESS EXCESSIVE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION RATES**

***When will FERC stop protecting monopoly incumbent electric utilities and start protecting ratepayers?***

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA) and 20 other consumer groups sent FERC [Supplemental Comments](#) to a fourteen-month-old Complaint that has languished at FERC, while ratepayers experience hyperinflation in electricity transmission rates.

Paul N. Cicio, President of IECA, made the following statement:

A recent article in Utility Dive by Advanced Energy United<sup>1</sup> says it all, “the majority of transmission investments flow from utility or local planning, avoiding regulatory scrutiny by falling through a regulatory gap that threatens energy affordability.” FERC has jurisdiction and has recognized the problem but has failed to act.

This point was amplified in an October 23, 2025 letter to FERC, by the Secretary of the Energy Chris Wright.

“Pursuant to section 403 of the Department of Energy Organization Act<sup>2</sup> the full exercise of the Commission’s Congressionally-granted jurisdiction is

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<sup>1</sup> See “Improve transmission affordability by mending the regulatory gap,” Alex Lawton, Advanced Energy United (Feb. 19, 2026), UTILITY DIVE, available at [https://www.utilitydive.com/news/improve-transmission-affordability-by-mending-the-regulatory-gap-advanced-energy-united-Lawton/809296/?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Issue:%202026-02-19%20Utility%20Dive%20Newsletter%20%5Bissue:81913%5D&utm\\_term=Utility%20Dive](https://www.utilitydive.com/news/improve-transmission-affordability-by-mending-the-regulatory-gap-advanced-energy-united-Lawton/809296/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Issue:%202026-02-19%20Utility%20Dive%20Newsletter%20%5Bissue:81913%5D&utm_term=Utility%20Dive) (last accessed Feb. 20, 2026) (emphasis added).

<sup>2</sup> Secretary of Energy’s Direction that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Initiate Rulemaking Procedures and Proposal Regarding the Interconnection of Large Loads Pursuant to the Secretary’s Authority Under Section 403 of the Department of Energy Organization Act, October 23, 2025 (“DOE Secretary Letter” or “ANOPR”).

essential to “ensure all Americans and domestic industries have access to affordable, reliable, and secure electricity.”<sup>3</sup>

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*The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.3 trillion in annual sales, over 12,000 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.9 million employees. One hundred percent of IECA members are manufacturing companies whose competitiveness is largely determined by the cost and reliability of natural gas and electricity. IECA’s sole mission is to reduce and avoid energy costs and increase energy reliability through advocacy in Congress and regulatory agencies, such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including chemicals, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, consumer goods, building products, automotive, independent oil refining, and cement.*

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<sup>3</sup> DOE Secretary Letter at 1.