



PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Marnie Satterfield

(202) 223-1420

msatterfield@ieca-us.org

104 CONSUMER ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING TENS OF MILLIONS OF RATEPAYERS RESPOND TO THE ANTI-COMPETITIVE RHETORIC OF WIRES LETTER TO FERC

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, 104 ratepayer organizations from across the country sent a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in response to the March 12, 2026 letter from WIRES to FERC.

Paul N. Cicio, Chairman of the Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition and President of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America, made the following statement on behalf of ratepayers:

We can only assume that our February 17, 2026 letter was viewed as a threat to the monopoly powers and profitability of WIRES member companies. The WIRES letter to FERC essentially makes the case for FERC to surrender its Federal Power Act responsibilities to not unleash competition in building new transmission lines to reduce ratepayer costs and not act to increase electricity affordability. Without competition, an incumbent transmission monopoly has zero incentive to reduce costs.