



Electricity
Transmission
Competition
Coalition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2026

US Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission Said “Competition is the Lifeblood of the American Economy”

FERC Should Reject Utility Complaint to Prohibit Transmission Competition in 19 States

Washington, DC – In a letter to the Supreme Court of Tennessee, the US Department of Justice, and the Federal Trade Commission made a statement exemplifying the importance of maintaining a competitive market and eliminating barriers to competition. These principles must apply to transmission as the nation awaits a looming federal decision that could prohibit competition in building transmission lines in 19 states. The DOJ and FTC joint letter stated:

“Competition is the lifeblood of the American economy, spurring innovation, expanding output and employment, lowering prices, improving quality, and increasing access to goods and services. Promoting competition and enhancing consumer choice are central goals for the Commission. Eliminating regulatory barriers that raise prices, prop up entrenched monopolies, or otherwise restrain the competitive economy is key to achieving these goals.” [\[1\]](#)

The Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition (ETCC) urges the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to reject a complaint filed by incumbent utilities in MISO and SPP seeking a five-year moratorium that would prohibit utilities from competing with one another to build transmission projects, increasing ratepayer electricity prices in 19 states. Without competition, a monopoly incumbent utility has zero incentive to reduce costs because the more they spend, the more they profit.

Paul Cicio, Chair of the Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition, stated, “We urge FERC to reject the Complaint. It is unthinkable, given the nationwide electricity affordability crisis, that FERC would support a complaint [\[2\]](#) to prohibit competition between utilities in building new billion-dollar transmission lines. Everyone knows that competition reduces costs and that competitive processes can deliver needed transmission projects on time. FERC Order 1000 is the law of the land and requires that regionally planned projects face competition. The question is whether FERC will prioritize ratepayers or utility profits.”

About the Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition

ETCC is a broad-based, nation-wide coalition committed to increasing competition in America's electricity transmission infrastructure. We advocate for common-sense policies and solutions that result in competitively priced transmission projects, which reduce energy costs for all ratepayers – from large manufacturers to residential consumers. The ETCC represents a diverse group of 95 companies and organizations from all 50 states, including manufacturing groups, retail electric consumers, state consumer advocates, think tanks, and non-incumbent transmission developers.

For more information, visit: www.electricitytransmissioncompetitioncoalition.org.

Press Contact:

Ginger Felberg

5038398333

Gfelberg@signaldc.com

[1] FTC and DOJ, *Comment Letter to the Supreme Court of Tennessee Regarding Potential Regulatory Reforms to Increase Access to Quality Legal Representation* (Apr. 30, 2026),

https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/ftc_gov/pdf/FTCDOJLettertoTennesseeSupremeCourt.pdf

[2] International Transmission Co. d/b/a ITC Transmission et al., *Complaint of the Grid Acceleration Coalition Requesting Fast Track Processing*, Docket No. EL26- (FERC Apr. 7, 2026),

<https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/filedownload?fileid=3e811093-d26b-cf0f-a91b-9d686af00001>