



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Montana Supports Transmission Competition - Clearing the Way for Lower Electricity Prices

**WASHINGTON** – Montana has officially repealed a law that gave monopoly utilities the exclusive right to build new power lines across a huge swath of the state—an area nearly the size of Indiana. This major win for consumers means more competition, more accountability, and lower prices in the state's electricity grid.

The Right of First Refusal (ROFR) repeal impacts 46,000 square miles of service territory held by Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU), a publicly traded utility. That territory, along with Northwestern Energy's, is now open to competition from non-utility developers. Only one cooperative area, Basin Electric, still retains a ROFR.

In a statement, Paul Cicio, Chair of the Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition, said: **"This is a big win for Montana families and manufacturers. Without competition, monopoly electric utilities do not have an incentive to reduce costs that are passed onto consumers. Repealing ROFR opens the door to lower cost, competitively built projects, and that's exactly what we need to rein in soaring electricity prices."**

Across the country, states are waking up to the cost burden created by ROFR laws. Both the Trump and Biden administration's US Department of Justice have consistently weighed in against ROFR laws. Below are two US DOJ quotes.

"...these restrictions would limit competition, thereby, potentially raising prices and lowering the quality of service for electricity consumers."

"...such laws can similarly reduce competition and, thereby, harm consumers."

### About the Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition

The Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition (ETCC) is a broad-based, nationwide coalition committed to increasing competition in America's electricity transmission infrastructure. We advocate for common-sense policies that lead to competitively priced transmission projects, reducing energy costs for all ratepayers—from large manufacturers to residential consumers. The ETCC represents 95 companies and organizations across all 50 states, including manufacturing groups, consumer advocates, think tanks, and non-incumbent transmission developers.

For more information, visit: [www.electricitytransmissioncompetitioncoalition.org](http://www.electricitytransmissioncompetitioncoalition.org)

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