Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA)
The Voice of the Industrial Energy Consumers

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July 17, 2026

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 9340, the "Ratepayer Protection Act"

Dear Chairmen Guthrie and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the member companies of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America, we support the "Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 9340" to the Ratepayer Protection Act and urge its passage.

The Amendment correctly defines "large load" as businesses that "operate information technology infra-structure and related systems pertaining to data storage and computational applications and services; and have, in the aggregate, a peak electric demand of 100 megawatts or more at a single site or campus.'' The definition correctly defines data centers and it properly excludes manufacturing companies.

Manufacturing demand and how we operate do not increase costs to other ratepayers nor do our operations impact the reliability of the grid. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), in the last ten years U.S. manufacturing electricity demand increased by only 0.067 percent while gross output increased by 32.2 percent.[1] A tremendous success story. Because we face extreme competition, we are price sensitive and drive down the use of electricity and that is not going to change in the future.

Manufacturing actually reduces electricity costs to other ratepayers. When there is high peak demand periods, we implement demand response to reduce consumption.

[1] Manufacturing Electricity Demand is Flat, https://www.ieca-us.org/wp-content/uploads/Electricity-slide.pdf

This results in lower prices to other ratepayers. We invest capital to generate power via combined heat and power, waste heat to power, wind, solar, and batteries. By doing so, it avoids the need for the utility to build generation, thereby reducing costs to other ratepayers.

Finally, many manufacturing facilities operate day and night, 365 days per year without creating negative impacts to grid reliability. Many provide valuable balancing benefits to the grid by producing less power at night and buying power from the grid when demand from other sectors is low. This predictable behavior supports grid balancing and frequency stability through continuous operation that differs fundamentally from data center loads. Importantly, our electric generating units are called upon to provide power or curtail load in times of grid system stress or shortages, thereby supporting grid reliability. There is not a single example nationwide that a manufacturing facility has caused a grid reliability problem.

The manufacturing sector are the supply chain for the entire U.S. economy. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio
Paul N. Cicio
President & CEO

cc: House Committee on Energy and Commerce
