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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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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

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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.*