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September 10, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the member companies of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America, we support H.R. 9340, the "Ratepayer Protection Act" and urge its passage. The legislation passed the House Committee on Energy and Commerce with a 52-0 bipartisan vote.

The bill correctly defines "large load" as businesses that "operate information technology infrastructure 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 large loads.

Getting the definition of "large load" correct is very important. As new federal and state regulations are designed to ensure that data centers do not increase ratepayer costs, it is vital that those regulations are not applied to manufacturing "large loads." Doing so would be costly and directly impact manufacturing competitiveness and jobs.

Unlike data centers, 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.

¹ Manufacturing Electricity Demand is Flat, <https://www.ieca-us.org/wp-content/uploads/Electricity-slide.pdf> EIA/BLS

Manufacturing reduces electricity costs to other ratepayers. When there is high peak demand periods many implement demand response to reduce consumption. 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 capacity, thereby reducing costs to other ratepayers.

Finally, many manufacturing facilities operate day and night, 365 days per year. Many facilities with CHP generation provide valuable balancing benefits to the grid by producing less power at night and buying power from the grid when demand from the residential and commercial sectors is low. This predictable behavior supports grid balancing and frequency stability through continuous operation that differs fundamentally from data center loads. Our electric generating units are also 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: U.S. House of Representatives

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, defense industries, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, consumer goods, building products, automotive, independent oil refining, and cement.