September 17, 2026

The Honorable Mike Lee
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: 80 Manufacturing Organizations and Others Support Energy Permitting Reform Legislation to Increase Natural Gas Pipeline Capacity and Electricity Transmission Competition to Increase Affordability

Dear Leaders Lee, Heinrich, Capito and Whitehouse:

The 80 manufacturing organizations and others listed below urge Congress to pass energy permitting reform legislation during this Congress. Manufacturers need access to increased natural gas pipeline capacity to operate existing facilities, invest in new ones, and create good paying jobs. We also encourage you to include provisions that hold the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) accountable for enforcing Order 1000, which would require utilities to compete with one another in the construction of regionally planned transmission projects to reduce ratepayer costs. Competition has been proven to reduce transmission costs by 38 percent or more.[1] Fifteen non-competitive projects resulted in substantial costs overruns that averaged 84 percent.[2]

The manufacturing sector is the supply chain for the entire U.S. economy, including vital materials for our national defense industries. We employ 12.6 million people, contribute 10 percent to U.S. GDP, consume 28 percent of U.S. natural gas and 26 percent of its electricity.[3] Natural gas is both a fuel and feedstock. The cost of natural gas or electricity can represent 10 to 80 percent of the cost of making manufacturing products.

No one is more impacted by inadequate natural gas pipeline capacity than the manufacturing sector. Under state end-use curtailment plans, when there is insufficient supply to serve the residential consumer or for electricity generation, natural gas service to manufacturing companies is curtailed – there is a mandatory reduction of natural gas supply. The frequency of curtailment rates is increasing annually and comes at significant costs and disruption to

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[1] 19 Competitive Transmission Projects with Average Cost Reductions of 38 Percent, Avoiding $4.9 Billion in Ratepayer Costs, https://www.ieca-us.org/wp-content/uploads/FERC-Order-1000-Competitively-Bid-Transmission-Projects-2021-2025.pdf

[2] 15 Transmission Projects That Were Not Competitively Bid Resulted in an Average Cost Overrun of 84 Percent, https://www.ieca-us.org/wp-content/uploads/RTO-ISO-Direct-Assigned-Transmission-Projects-Non-Competitive-5_4_26.pdf

[3] Energy Information Administration

manufacturing supply chains. Last winter, 47 natural gas pipelines reduced or curtailed supply to manufacturers.[4]

Regarding transmission competition, FERC needs to stop protecting monopoly electric utilities from competition and start protecting ratepayers. FERC Order 1000 requires that regionally planned transmission projects face competition yet only five percent of all transmission projects are competitive. FERC continues to not respond to numerous complaints filed by consumers. Without competition, a monopoly utility has zero incentive to reduce costs because the more they spend the more their profits increase.

Transmission costs are soaring. For example, in PJM, transmission costs as a percent of the wholesale price increased from 6.8 percent to 32.4 percent in the last ten years.[5] Edison Electric Institute forecasts that investor-owned utilities will spend $138 billion on transmission from 2026 to 2028. A 30 percent savings due to competition would save ratepayers $41 billion.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio
President
Industrial Energy Consumers of America
pcicio@ieca-us.org
(703) 216-7402

cc: U.S. Senate
U.S. House of Representatives

ORGANIZATIONS

1. Agricultural Retailers Association
2. Alliance of Western Energy Consumers
3. Aluminum Association
4. American Cement Association
5. American Chemistry Council
6. American Composites Manufacturers Association
7. American Forest and Paper Association
8. American Foundry Society
9. American Iron and Steel Institute
10. Americans for Prosperity
11. Arcus Power
12. Associated Industries of Arkansas

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[4] Inadequate Natural Gas Pipeline Capacity Directly Impacts Manufacturers: Urge Congress to Pass Energy Permitting Reform, https://www.ieca-us.org/wp-content/uploads/03.16.26_Letter_Senate-Energy-Permitting-Reform.pdf

[5] PJM Transmission Costs Increased from 6.8% to 32% of the Wholesale Price in Ten Years, https://www.ieca-us.org/wp-content/uploads/PJM-Transmission-Prices.pdf

13. Association of Businesses Advocating for Tariff Equity
14. Basic Construction Company
15. Brick Industry Association
16. CalPortland Company
17. Cardinal FG
18. Carolina Industrial Group for Fair Utility Rates
19. Carolina Utility Customers Association, Inc.
20. Celanese Corporation
21. Chemical Industry Council of Illinois
22. Chemistry Council of New Jersey
23. Commercial Metals Company
24. Corn Refiners Association
25. Council of Industrial Boiler Owners
26. Dean Warehouse Services Inc.
27. DNA Technical Fabrics
28. Durable Industrial Finishing
29. Essential Minerals Association
30. Florida Office of Public Counsel
31. Formosa Plastics Corporation, U.S.A.
32. Georgia Association of Manufacturers
33. Georgia Chemistry Council
34. Georgia Mining Association
35. Gerdau North America
36. Glass Packaging Institute
37. Goodwin-Bradley Pattern Co., Inc.
38. Hanwha Azdel, Inc
39. Heidelberg Materials
40. Hoshizaki Corporation
41. Illinois Industrial Energy Consumers
42. Industrial Energy Consumer Group (Maine/Massachusetts)
43. Industrial Energy Consumers of America
44. Industrial Energy Consumers of Pennsylvania
45. Inland Empire Paper Company
46. Iowa Business Energy Coalition
47. Iowa Industrial Energy Group, Inc.
48. Kansas Industrial Consumers Group, Inc.
49. Kimberly-Clark Corporation
50. Legacy Energy
51. Manufacturers Association of Maine
52. Midwest Food Products Association
53. National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
54. New Mexico Business Coalition
55. Norsk Hydro
56. North Carolina Manufacturers Alliance
57. Ohio Energy Group
58. Oklahoma Industrial Energy Consumers
59. Process Gas Consumers Group

60. Producers Rice Mill, Inc.
61. Rhode Island Manufacturers Association
62. Riceland Foods
63. Rinnai America Corporation
64. Service Center Metals
65. Short Mountain Silica Company
66. Steel Manufacturers Association
67. Syntha Group
68. Tennessee Chamber of Commerce
69. Tennessee Manufacturers Association
70. Texas Association of Manufacturers
71. TEXICAN Natural Gas
72. The Fertilizer Institute
73. Thiele Kaolin Company
74. Vinyl Institute
75. Virginia Manufacturers Association
76. Walco Electric Co.
77. Webco Industries, Inc.
78. West Virginia Manufacturers Association
79. Wisconsin Cast Metals Association
80. Wisconsin Industrial Energy Group