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ICYMI: Manufacturers Tell Congress Permitting Reform Must Include Transmission Competition

WASHINGTON, DC — As Congress considers energy permitting reform, a coalition of 80 manufacturing organizations and other groups is urging lawmakers to advance policies that accelerate energy infrastructure development while protecting ratepayers from rising transmission costs.

In a letter to Senate committee leaders, the groups called on Congress to advance permitting reform while holding the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) accountable for enforcing Order 1000 and preserving competition for regionally planned transmission projects.

For the Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition (ETCC), the letter highlights a central point: building transmission faster and building it competitively should go hand in hand.

"This letter underscores the need to build critical energy infrastructure faster while also protecting consumers from rising costs," **said Paul Cicio, Chair of the Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition.** "Order 1000 already established competition for regionally planned transmission projects, but today only a small fraction are competitively bid. As transmission investment grows, enforcing those existing competition requirements can help bring down electricity costs for American consumers."

Without competition, ratepayers pay unchecked prices on infrastructure growth. The letter cites analyses finding that competitively bid transmission projects produced average cost reductions of 30 percent or more, while 15 noncompetitive projects experienced average cost overruns of 84 percent. It also notes that only 5 percent of transmission projects are currently competitive.

The affordability stakes are growing. In PJM, transmission costs increased from 6.8 percent of the wholesale electricity price in 2014 to 32.4 percent in 2024, according to an IECA analysis.

ETCC has consistently argued that policymakers should not have to choose between speed and competition. As Congress looks for ways to accelerate energy infrastructure development and address affordability, enforcing existing transmission competition rules offers a way to pursue both goals.

Read the full letter here.

About the Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition

The Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition is a nationwide coalition focused on increasing competition in the development of electricity transmission infrastructure and protecting ratepayers from unnecessary costs.

The Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition (ETCC) is a broad-based, nation-wide coalition committed to increasing competition in America's electricity transmission infrastructure. We advocate for common-sense policies and solutions that result in competitively priced transmission projects, which reduce energy costs for all ratepayers – from large manufacturers to residential consumers. The ETCC represents a diverse group of 95 companies and organizations from all 50 states, including manufacturing groups, retail electric consumers, state consumer advocates, think tanks, and non-incumbent transmission developers.

For more information, visit: www.electricitytransmissioncompetitioncoalition.org.

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