



Industrial Energy Consumers of America
The Voice of the Industrial Energy Consumers

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May 8, 2012

The Honorable Pete Olson
U.S. House of Representatives
312 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 4273, the Resolving Environmental and Grid Reliability Conflicts Act of 2012

Dear Representative Olson:

On behalf of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA), we support passage of H.R. 4273, the Resolving Environmental and Grid Reliability Conflicts Act of 2012. As large industrial consumers of electricity, the cost and reliability of electricity is very important to competitiveness. When government agencies require electric generators to run their facility, we do not want our providers to second guess the decision because of a potential lawsuit. We want them to operate and maintain the reliability of the grid.

Reliability of electricity supply is very important. If the power goes out in manufacturing facilities without warning, it becomes a safety issue for facility employees because many facilities have high pressure vessels and or operate furnaces at thousands of degrees Fahrenheit. Product that is in the equipment can be damaged or ruined. Equipment can be either partially or permanently damaged resulting in lost production capacity. For large facilities, costs can quickly run into the tens of millions of dollars.

Thank you for your leadership on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio
President

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading Manufacturing companies with \$700 billion in annual sales and with more than 650,000 employees nationwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through research, advocacy, and collaboration for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: plastics, cement, paper, food processing, brick, chemicals, fertilizer, insulation, steel, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, aluminum and brewing.