



Industrial Energy Consumers of America

The Voice of the Industrial Energy Consumers

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May 4, 2020

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
U.S. Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Manchin
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural
Resources
U.S. Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: FERC Electric Transmission Incentives Policy Under Section 219 of the Federal Power Act - Docket No. RM20-10-000

Dear Chairmen Pallone and Murkowski, and Ranking Members Walden and Manchin:

On April 29, 2020, sixty-three manufacturing organizations from across the country representing millions of jobs asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to [delay comments](#) on the Electric Transmission Incentives NOPR. The motion requests the comment deadline be changed to the later of 60 days after the federal emergency related to the COVID-19 health pandemic has been lifted or October 1, 2020. On behalf of these organizations, we urge you to support this request.

The NOPR will increase the cost of electric transmission across the country for all consumers. This is not the time to increase the cost of electricity to U.S. manufacturers that are dealing with COVID-19 to protect their employees and unparalleled economic uncertainties. The depth and length of the economic downturn is of great concern.

Since 2012, electric transmission costs have increased more than 52 percent and represents our highest single increased energy cost, and any proposal to consider

further increases requires U.S. manufacturers' undivided attention.¹ That is just not possible at this unprecedented time.

The FERC Electric Transmission Incentives NOPR proposes to give financial rewards to companies to build electric transmission projects. The proposed incentives are not needed. Transmission projects that are needed are getting built. Every dollar of financial incentive would be passed onto us, the consumer ratepayer. Since the NOPR applies nationally, no electric ratepayer would escape the rate increase.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio
President

cc: House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is a nonpartisan association of leading manufacturing companies with \$1.0 trillion in annual sales, over 4,000 facilities nationwide, and with more than 1.7 million employees worldwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies through 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: chemicals, plastics, steel, iron ore, aluminum, paper, food processing, fertilizer, insulation, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, building products, automotive, brewing, independent oil refining, and cement.

¹ Electric Power Annual; EIA; Edison Electric Institute