

ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPETITION COALITION (ETCC)

PRESS RELEASE

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Seventy-Three Consumer Organizations Urge Congress to Support Competition on Electricity Transmission Projects and Oppose Monopoly Market Power on Transmission Projects

Washington, DC – In a [letter](#) to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee, consumer organizations representing hundreds of thousands of manufacturing companies and residential consumers urge Congress to ensure that new electricity transmission projects are competitively bid in transmission infrastructure legislation, including H.R. 3684, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, now being debated. By doing so, it will reduce ratepayer cost increases, which will result from increased transmission capital spending.

A Princeton University study addresses the cost of President Biden’s net-zero emissions goal. It says, “High voltage transmission capacity expands ~60% by 2030 and triples through 2050 to connect wind and solar facilities to demand; total capital invested in transmission is \$360 billion through 2030 and \$2.4 trillion by 2050.”¹ If transmission investments are competitively bid, consumers could avoid hundreds of billions of dollars in higher electricity costs.

The newly formed Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition (ETCC) and the 73 organizations that signed on to the letter, urge Congress to protect consumers. Electricity transmission costs have soared across the country because transmission projects do not face competition. Transmission additions subject to competition have projected cost reductions of up to 33 percent.²

According to Paul Cicio, president of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America, who leads the Coalition stated that “Only about 3 percent of electric transmission projects face competition. This is despite the fact that FERC Order 1000, enacted in 2011, was meant to usher in a new era of competition. It is important to remember that for every dollar spent on transmission, ratepayers will carry those costs every year for 40-50 years, plus maintenance costs that increase annually, plus a utility rate of return on equity in the range of 9-12 percent. The costs are significant.”

¹ “Net-Zero America,” Princeton University, December 2020, page 106, <https://acee.princeton.edu/acee-news/net-zero-america-report-release/>

² “Cost Savings Offered by Competition in Electric Transmission,” The Brattle Group, April 2019, page 19, https://brattlefiles.blob.core.windows.net/files/15987_brattle_competitive_transmission_report_final_wi_th_data_tables_04-09-2019.pdf