

STATEMENT TO CONGRESS OPPOSING EXPANSION OF FERC AUTHORITY

Electricity is an essential service that is critically important to our economy and to the citizens and businesses in our states. Over the past decade, changing regulations and failed efforts to deregulate electricity service in some areas of the country have undermined the reliability of electricity service, the ability for utility regulators to ensure that consumers have affordable power, the stability of our electricity rates, and the investment climate for utilities and others to build needed generation and transmission in those regions.

We urge Congress to avoid actions that would further destabilize this critical industry and put consumers at risk. Federal policy should respect the decisions of the majority of states and municipalities, which have chosen not to deregulate electricity service. Those jurisdictions continue to have affordable, reliable electric service. Federal policy should preserve the full ability of states and municipalities to oversee reliable and reasonably priced electricity service to retail customers. Federal policy should protect consumers. The Standard Market Design rules proposed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) run counter to these objectives.

We urge Congress *not to* include in the pending Omnibus Energy Bill any provision that expands the authority of the FERC to interfere with the ability of states and municipalities to preserve their chosen electricity service policies. Instead, we urge Congress to clarify that the authority of the FERC *does not* extend to impairing the ability of state or local government to regulate any component part of a fully bundled retail sale of electricity, or the siting of generation and transmission, that is subject to state or other local government regulation.

Signatories attached

**Signatories of Statement to Congress
Opposing Expansion of FERC Authority
*as of September 16, 2002***

Alabama

Alabama Public Service Commission
Jim Sullivan, president
Jan Cook, commissioner
George Wallace, commissioner

Arkansas

Arkansas Public Service Commission
Sandra Hochstetter, chair
Betty Dickey, commissioner

California

California Public Utilities Commission
Loretta Lynch, chair
Carl Wood, commissioner

Colorado

Colorado Public Utilities Commission
Ray Gifford, chair
Polly Page, commissioner

Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel
Ken Reif, director

Georgia

Georgia Public Service Commission
Lauren “Bubba” McDonald, chair

Idaho

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Paul Kjellander, president

Kentucky

Kentucky Public Service Commission
Martin Huelsmann, chair
Gary Gillis, commissioner
Robert Spurlin, commissioner

Louisiana

Louisiana Public Service Commission
Jay Blossman, chair
Don Owen, vice chair
Irma Muse Dixon, commissioner
Jimmy Field, commissioner
Dale Sittig, commissioner

Mississippi

Mississippi Public Service Commission

Michael Callahan, chair

Nielsen Cochran, commissioner

Dorlos "Bo" Robinson, commissioner

New Mexico

New Mexico Attorney General

Patricia Madrid

New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

Lynda Lovejoy, chair

Herb Hughes, vice chair

Rory McMinn, commissioner

Tony Schaefer, commissioner

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

Nancy Brockway, commissioner

North Carolina

North Carolina Utilities Commission

Jim Kerr, commissioner

Oregon

Oregon Public Utilities Commission

Joan Smith, commissioner

New York

Public Utility Law Project of New York

Gerald Norlander, executive director

South Carolina

South Carolina Public Service Commission

Mignon L. Clyburn, chair

Buddy Atkins, commissioner

H. Clay Carruth, Jr., commissioner

Randy Mitchell, commissioner

Bob Moseley, commissioner

William "Bill" Saunders, commissioner

Nick Theodore, commissioner

South Dakota

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

Jim Burg, chair

Pam Nelson, commissioner

Tennessee

Tennessee Regulatory Authority

Sara Kyle, chair

Pat Miller, director

Deborah Taylor Tate, director

Utah

Utah Committee of Consumer Services

Dee Jay Hammon, chair

Kent Bateman, member

Betsy Wolf, member

Kelly Casaday, member

Franz Amussen, member

Candace Hammer, member

Washington

Washington Attorney General

Christine Gregoire

Washington Public Utilities District Association

Steve Johnson, executive director

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

Marilyn Showalter, chair

Dick Hemstad, commissioner

Pat Oshie, commissioner

Seattle City Light

Gary Zarker, superintendent

Tacoma Public Utilities

Mark Crisson, chief executive officer

Contact: Marilyn Showalter 360/664-1173