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CONSUMERS APPLAUD ACTION BY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO CRACK DOWN ON ANTI-COMPETITIVE ELECTRIC UTILITY ROFR LAWS

WASHINGTON, DC – The Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition applauds the creation of the Justice Department Anticompetitive Regulations Task Force to advocate for the elimination of anti-competitive state and federal laws and regulations that undermine free market competition and harm consumers.

In a statement, **Paul Cicio, Chair of the Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition**, said:

"The announcement is timely. At this very moment, monopoly electric utilities in Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Iowa, and Arkansas are aggressively pushing their state legislatures to put in place right of first refusal laws (ROFRs) that are anti-competitive, anti-consumer, and anti-market. ROFRs prevent competition when building new electricity transmission lines, which saddles ratepayers with costs that can be 25 to 30 percent higher for periods of 40 years. ROFRs are exactly the kind of regulation that the DOJ should target.

About the Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition

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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