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## NOVEMBER ELECTRICITY PRICE INFLATION – 13 PERCENT HIGHER THAN CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI)

WASHINGTON, DC – Today's Bureau of Labor Statistics report<sup>1</sup> states that for the unadjusted 12 months ending in November 2024, electricity price inflation rose by 3.1 percent, while the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 2.7 percent. Gasoline decreased by 8.1 percent.

Electricity prices continue to escalate even as the price of natural gas for electric generation remains low and depresses electricity generation costs nationwide. Electricity price inflation has exceeded the CPI for 17 straight months.

In a statement, **Paul Cicio, Chair of the Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition**, said: "Electricity price inflation is a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) policy failure – not a market failure. Electricity prices will continue to escalate due to billions of dollars being spent on electricity transmission projects that are not competitively bid, which increases utilities profits. Without competition, utilities do not have an incentive to reduce transmission costs. Competitively bid projects routinely reduce costs by 25-30 percent.

The FERC had an opportunity to fix the policy failure when they issued the transmission planning orders 1920 and 1920A, but instead created and sustained a loophole called "right sizing," a right of first refusal (ROFR) that allows monopoly utilities to continue to circumvent competition. FERC's policy will increase consumer electric bills for decades to come.

Competitive bidding of transmission projects can provide legally binding cost caps and accountability measures that consumers need to avoid facing higher electricity costs.

Read more about the benefits of transmission competition in ETCC's comprehensive report.

## **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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Consumer Price Index Summary, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, December 11, 2024, <a href="https://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.nr0.htm">https://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.nr0.htm</a>

For more information, visit: <a href="https://www.electricitytransmissioncompetitioncoalition.org">www.electricitytransmissioncompetitioncoalition.org</a>.

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