



February 4, 2023

Chair Sen. Lonnie Paxton,
Vice-Chair Sen. Grant Green,
Members of the Committee
2300 N Lincoln Blvd.,
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Chairman Paxton, Vice-Chair Green, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of 86 organizations and companies in opposition to Senate Bill 498, which would grant incumbent electric utilities the right of first refusal (ROFR) to build and operate new electricity transmission projects. It grants the utility monopoly power to build transmission lines in an era when it is a norm that all other businesses face market competition. Granting this monopoly power would lead to high inflationary electricity costs for consumers for decades to come.

Where competition has been allowed to occur nationwide, transmission competition has been shown to lower costs by as much as 30%, which would save consumers money each month on their utility bills. Studies have verified similar findings.¹ In a climate of record inflation, driven in large part by spiraling electricity costs, we cannot afford to turn our backs on competition. Competition drives down construction costs and increases innovation, both of which benefit households and businesses which in turn will drive a robust economy for Oklahoma.²

We urge you to reject SB498. Stand up for consumers and not the monopoly power of the incumbent electricity utility.

Thank you for protecting consumers in the State of Oklahoma from higher costs.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio

Paul N. Cicio
Chairman, Electricity Transmission Competition Coalition
<https://electricitytransmissioncompetitioncoalition.org/>

¹ Brattle Group: Cost Savings Offered by Competition in Electric Transmission, https://www.brattle.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/16726_cost_savings_offered_by_competition_in_electric_transmission.pdf

² Brattle Group: Cost Savings Offered by Competition in Electric Transmission, https://www.brattle.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/16726_cost_savings_offered_by_competition_in_electric_transmission.pdf

MEMBERS OF THE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COALITION

Ag Processing
Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC)
Aluminum Association
American Chemistry Council
American Forest & Paper Association
American Foundry Society
American Iron and Steel Institute
Anbaric Development Partners, LLC
Ardagh Group
Arglass Yamamura
Arkansas Electric Energy Consumers, Inc.
Arkansas Forest and Paper Council
Association of Businesses Advocating for Tarrif Equity
CalPortland Company
Can Manufacturers Institute
Carolina Industrial Group for Fair Utility Rates
Carolina Utility Customers Association, Inc.
Century Aluminum
Chemistry Council of New Jersey
Coalition of MISO Transmission Customers
Coastal Energy Corporation
Commercial Metals Company
Council of Industrial Boilers Organization
Delaware Energy Users Group
Digital Realty
Domtar Corporation
Eramet Marietta Inc.
Formosa Plastics Corporation, USA
Foundry Association of Michigan
Glass Packaging Institute
Illinois Industrial Energy Consumers
Indiana Cast Metals Association
Indiana Industrial Energy Consumers
Industrial Energy Consumers of America
Industrial Energy Consumers of Pennsylvania
Industrial Energy Users-Ohio
Industrial Minerals Association-North America
Iowa Business Energy Coalition
Iowa Industrial Energy Group, Inc.
Iron Mining Association of Minnesota

Large Energy Users Coalition (NJ)
Lehigh Hanson, Inc.
LS Power Development, LLC
Maine Industrial Energy Consumer Group
Marathon Petroleum Company
Maryland Office of People's Counsel
Messer Americas
Metalcasters of Minnesota
Michigan Chemistry Council
Midwest Food Products Association
Minnesota Large Industrial Group
Multiple Intervenors, NY
National Council of Textile Organizations
National Retail Federation
NextEra Energy
North Carolina Manufacturers Alliance
Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia
Ohio Cast Metals Association
Ohio Chemistry Technology Council
Ohio Energy Group
Ohio Manufacturers' Association
Oklahoma Industrial Energy Consumers
Olin Corporation
Owens-Illinois
Pennsylvania Energy Consumer Alliance
PJM Industrial Customer Coalition
Portland Cement Association
Public Citizen, Inc.
R Street
Resale Power Group of Iowa
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Riceland Foods, Inc.
Rio Tinto
Steel Manufacturers Association
Texas Cast Metals Association
TimkenSteel Corporation
Vallourec STAR LP
Vinyl Institute
Virginia Manufacturers Association
West Virginia Energy Users Group
Wisconsin Cast Metals Association
Wisconsin Industrial Energy Group