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For Immediate Release

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ELCON Seeks Congressional Directive for an Independent Study of the Cost of Electricity

Washington D.C. – The Electricity Consumers Resource Council (ELCON) led a coalition of eleven organizations today in a [letter](#) calling on Congressional leaders to study the cost of electricity in the United States. Specifically, the coalition requested an independent study to assess the impacts on consumers of wholesale markets under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

ELCON is the national association of large industrial consumers of electricity and promotes affordable, reliable, abundant, and environmentally responsible electricity for American industry. Joining ELCON today were industrial consumer advocates from several states as well as public policy organizations from across the political spectrum, including representatives of residential customers.

For 25 years, FERC has promoted open, competitive wholesale markets to ensure that electricity consumers pay the lowest price possible for reliable service. However, there has not been a comprehensive empirical analysis of wholesale markets' impact on the cost or reliability of service for retail consumers.

Current trends in the industry – including wholesale market expansion, clean energy goals, and increasing electrification – make the requested analysis more important than ever. Travis Fisher, President and CEO of ELCON, said “government studies published more than a decade ago regarding wholesale markets claimed to lack the necessary data – the time is right to revisit these issues with fresh data so we can have an informed debate about the impacts of wholesale markets on consumers.”

Regarding ELCON's desired outcome from the letter, Fisher said “we could learn a lot from an analysis of the wholesale competition experience to date, and we should use what we learn to establish a set of best practices or reforms regarding market structure and make sure we maximize benefits to consumers.”