

ERE-2/CPI-2 Resolution on Unlocking Energy Efficiency to Support Adequate Energy Supply and Curb Electric Bill Increases

Whereas an adequate supply of affordable, reliable, efficient electricity is foundational to the global competitiveness of the United States economy, allowing industry, state and local economies, and the people of the United States to thrive;

Whereas demand for electricity supply is rising sharply across the United States, due to new data center development to support American Artificial Intelligence, new onshore manufacturing, building electrification and growth of electric vehicles;

Whereas forecasts indicate that in three years, by 2030, total national electricity use will increase by 32 percent, and that in addition to demand side management programs, the United States must build about 80 GW of additional capacity per year over the next 20 years compared to the 40 GW average of new capacity built annually over the past five years (See analyses from [Grid Strategies](#) and [ICF](#), respectively);

Whereas national average retail electricity prices have risen rapidly in nominal terms in recent years due to a number of drivers -- including distribution investments, extreme weather and wildfires, load growth, wind and solar deployment, and natural gas dependence (See report from [Lawrence Berkely National Laboratory](#));

Whereas energy utilities will spend nearly \$1.2 trillion on new infrastructure through 2029 to meet new rising electricity demand (See forecasts from [S&P Global](#));

Whereas rising utility bills are now a national issue with rising costs contributing to American consumers' broader economic concerns (See [Powerlines](#) analysis) and rising energy costs are contributing to inflation (See [Consumer Price Index](#) release);

Whereas utilities and state utility commissions maintain responsibility for supplying energy adequate to meet customer requirements at the lowest reasonable cost;

Whereas Congress, the Administration, and federal agencies maintain responsibility for fostering the nation's economic activity, protecting consumers generally, investing in strategies to support adequate domestic energy supply and keep energy costs down, and regulating the interstate transmission of electricity;

Whereas investing in the lowest reasonable cost, most cost-effective energy supply first can reduce the cost to customers of meeting energy requirements;

Whereas energy inefficient homes strain Americans' wallets with high energy bills while also straining the grid precisely during critical extreme cold and heat events;

Whereas energy efficiency equals economic efficiency, quickly providing supply, cutting utility system costs, lowering customer bills, creating American jobs, bolstering national security, and lowering public health costs. (See reports from the [Brattle Group](#), [Regulatory Assistance Project](#) and [American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy](#));

Whereas energy efficiency is overall system efficiency and a cornerstone that enables more economic value to be extracted from supply side and other demand side resources;

Whereas energy efficiency remains a large untapped energy resource across the many sectors and markets of the United States economy by 2040, energy efficiency has the potential to reduce electricity consumption by about 8% and demand by about 70 GW (See [Electric Power Research Institute](#), [U.S. DOE](#), and [ICF](#) analyses);

Whereas numerous state and utility energy efficiency programs already exist and are proven examples of low-cost options available to meet energy needs, together with the growing number of sources of demand-side supply like demand response programs, are examples. (See studies from [Alliance to Save Energy](#), [American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy](#), [Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory](#), , and [State and Local Energy Efficiency Action Network](#));

Whereas numerous federal programs and standards already exist and can be leveraged to complement state and utility energy efficiency efforts, including manufactured home efficiency standards, grid enhancing technology requirements at FERC for interstate transmission, the U.S. EPA's Energy Star® program, the Weatherization Assistance Program, and more; *now, therefore be it*

Resolved that the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, convened at its 2026 Winter Policy Summit in Washington, D.C., encourages Congress, the Administration, federal agencies, and research institutions to unlock this low-cost energy supply by maintaining and enhancing existing federal energy efficiency programs, investments, and standards, and by working together with states, utilities, the commercial and industrial sector, and other stakeholders in advancing new pilot projects, supporting data-sharing, maintaining minimum energy efficiency standards and building codes and encouraging other efficiency initiatives as cost effective tools to address the challenges of rising bills and demand.

Passed by the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment and the Committee on Consumers and the Public Interest on February 9, 2026

Adopted by the NARUC Board of Directors on February 11, 2026