

Statement from Mayor Matt Tuerk, Allentown, PA, on the July 23 FERC summit on governance reform at PJM:

"Electricity is essential for every home, and it can't keep getting more expensive with no end in sight. Far too many families in our city face impossible choices due to unaffordable energy costs. Last June, residents in Allentown experienced an increase of \$22-\$28 per month due to higher costs from the grid operator, PJM Interconnection. This summer, residents are seeing power bill hikes again, with the one in June due to higher costs at PJM.

Right now, power generation companies and large data center operators have an outsized influence at PJM, while the 67 million ratepayers footing the bill have too little. That has to change. PJM's policies have been stalling the progress we want to see in clean energy sources like battery storage, solar, and wind, which can get energy to families fast and at low cost. Instead, under the status quo at PJM, we just keep seeing power plant owners getting paid more while the risk of blackouts gets worse.

PJM Interconnection is the largest Regional Transmission Organization in the United States and is headquartered near Allentown in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. I urge FERC commissioners and participants at the summit on PJM governance to think of their neighbors ahead of the financial interests of corporations and data centers. More billpayer-accountable decision-making at PJM will ensure that the people of Allentown are not left behind while corporate interests get put first."

Mayor Matt Tuerk, City of Allentown
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CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE

To be a place where everyone thrives

The City of Charlottesville (the “City”) respectfully submits the following statement for consideration by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) at the July 23 summit on governance reform at PJM, our regional electric grid operator.

The City of Charlottesville’s vision is to be a community where everyone thrives. We understand that into the future, thriving must include access to clean, reliable, and affordable energy for our entire community, especially as extreme weather that threatens grid reliability becomes increasingly frequent and intense.

The City, along with many other local governments in Virginia, has established long-term climate and sustainability goals to reduce greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions, increase clean energy investment, create local jobs, reduce energy burden, and deliver immediate environmental and public health benefits to the community.

Affordability and reliability of electricity is a growing concern for Charlottesville community members. We are keenly aware of rising electricity costs related to PJM electricity capacity costs. Years of PJM inaction to upgrade the grid and connect new energy to meet increasing data center demands are forecast to result in further escalation of electricity costs. Our community, with a poverty rate of near 20%, has been tracking the high energy burden that impacts hundreds of our families. As temperatures rise, so will energy costs, disproportionately affecting low-income households who are already significantly burdened by housing costs.

Charlottesville supports various strategies for reducing energy burdens and aligning with our climate goals including offering a residential energy efficiency mini-grant program along with a commercial energy improvement program, encouraging residential solar deployment through annual Solarize campaigns, and connecting low- and moderate-income residents with newly available shared solar opportunities

Residents must be protected from the threat of blackouts and other energy reliability concerns. Losing power is not just an inconvenience. It costs residents hundreds of dollars in lost food and medicine, damaged heating and cooling systems, and can contribute to unhealthy indoor air quality. Estimates that Dominion Energy’s last Integrated Resource Plan could double utility rates in the next 15 years will be devastating for Charlottesville families, forcing them to choose between paying utilities or paying for rent, food, or medicine.

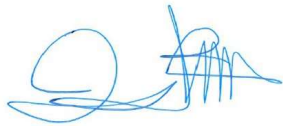
While the City has advanced actions at the local level, these alone are not enough to protect consumers from the rising costs of electricity. Regulators at the state and federal level, including FERC, must defend against residents having to absorb the costs for new energy generation and transmission.

As energy demand continues to grow, it is essential that regulators prioritize investing in energy efficiency and weatherization programs (far and away the most cost-effective strategies to manage load growth) along with the deployment clean energy projects and battery storage that can come online quickly. Offsetting load growth by reducing existing energy loads, particularly in low-income neighborhoods, will have the benefits of addressing energy affordability, grid-wide reliability improvements, and reduce the risk of uncontrolled rate hikes.

Regulators must hear from and listen to local leaders and decision-makers. Regional Transmission Organization governance must ensure that regulatory policies are informed by the perspectives of our residents and a real understanding of the consequences and impacts of those decisions on the lives of our residents.

The City appreciates the Commission's consideration of the City's statement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Juandiego Wade', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Juandiego Wade
Mayor, City of Charlottesville, VA
wadej@charlottesville.gov

Statement from Mayor Shenise Turner-Sloss, on the July 23 FERC summit on governance reform at PJM:

July 17, 2026

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

To Whom it May Concern:

I write today as the Mayor of Dayton, Ohio. In Dayton, we are feeling the impacts of rising electricity costs every day. Residents are increasingly telling us they are struggling to afford higher utility bills, particularly low- and moderate-income households that already face disproportionate energy burdens. At the same time, local governments operate critical public infrastructure—including water treatment facilities, airports, and other essential services—that rely on affordable and reliable electricity. While our residents and city facilities are paying more, they are not the primary drivers of rising energy costs, and they should not be expected to bear the financial burden of increasing regional energy demand.

We urge the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission(FERC) to ensure that residents are not forced to bear unnecessary costs or face increased reliability risks as electricity demand grows. FERC should strengthen and streamline pathways for bringing new generation online—particularly scalable resources such as clean energy, distributed energy resources, and energy storage. Accelerating the deployment of these resources will help meet growing demand, improve grid reliability, and stabilize electricity costs for communities.

Dayton is already investing in solutions that strengthen grid reliability while lowering energy costs for residents. This year, we awarded funding that will help more than 400 households improve their homes through weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades, reducing participants' utility bills by an estimated 10–20%. We are also expanding solar installations on municipal facilities to lower long-term operating costs for taxpayers while increasing access to locally generated community solar through our 49.9 MW solar project within Dayton city limits. These investments reduce demand on the grid during periods of peak capacity, improve resilience, and deliver meaningful savings for both the City and our residents. However, local action alone cannot keep pace with the rapid rise in electricity prices. As capacity costs continue to increase, the savings we create through energy efficiency and local generation are increasingly being eroded by higher wholesale electricity costs.

Achieving a reliable, affordable, and a more enhanced electric grid also requires meaningful governance reform within PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM). Local governments are on the front lines of delivering essential services, investing in distributed energy resources, and helping residents manage rising energy costs, yet cities have limited representation in regional transmission decision-making. While several stakeholder groups represent individual market

interests, there is no dedicated voice that fully represents the unique perspective of local governments balancing reliability, affordability, and new clean generation. Organizations like the PJM Cities and Communities Coalition have helped elevate these issues, but participation remains limited by financial barriers and they are not recognized as a formal stakeholder sector. I implore you to reform PJM's governance, so it better reflects the interests of communities by ensuring local governments have a meaningful voice in decisions that affect electricity costs, grid reliability, and the deployment of cost-effective clean energy resources. Cities should be partners in shaping the grid—not simply left to manage the consequences of decisions made without their input.

Respectfully,

Shenise Turner-Sloss
Mayor, City of Dayton



City of Alexandria, Virginia
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Alyia Gaskins
Mayor

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The affordability and reliability of electricity is a growing concern for Alexandrians. The City is actively involved in protecting our residents from rising costs by intervening in utility proceedings at the State Corporation Commission, working directly with Dominion Energy to make sure infrastructure investments in Alexandria are prioritized, and more. Despite these efforts, some have estimated that Dominion Energy's last Integrated Resource Plan could double utility rates in the next 15 years. This will be devastating for Alexandria families, risking evictions and forcing families to choose between paying utilities and paying for rent, food, or medicine.

To address these issues, the City is working directly with our affordable housing providers to identify opportunities to improve the energy performance of residential buildings in the city. We have awarded energy improvement grants, provided technical assistance, and passed a new Green Building Plan that ensures every new development in the city achieves a high level of energy performance and includes investment in clean energy infrastructure.

These efforts are valuable but are not enough to protect consumers from the rising costs of electricity. Regulators at the state and federal level, including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), must defend against residents having to absorb the costs for new energy generation and transmission. Just as vital is that residents be protected from the threat of blackouts and other energy reliability concerns. Losing power is not just an inconvenience. It costs residents hundreds of dollars in lost food and medicine. It also creates unhealthy spaces that allow mold growth and destroy indoor air quality.

As energy demand continues to grow, it is essential that regulators prioritize investing in energy efficiency programs for residential properties. Offsetting load growth by reducing existing energy loads, particularly in low-income neighborhoods, will have the benefits of addressing energy affordability, grid-wide reliability improvements, and reduce the risk of uncontrolled rate hikes.

Accomplishing this means regulators must hear from and listen to local decision-makers. Governance at Regional Transmission Organizations must include resident perspectives from leaders in these jurisdictions to ensure the consequences of policies are not misunderstood. The impact of these decisions is on the lives of our residents and it is imperative that these real stories and real implications be fully understood when making regulatory decisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alyia Gaskins".

Alyia Gaskins
Mayor, City of Alexandria

July 15, 2026

In re.: Energy Affordability and Reliability

To whom it may concern:

My name is Michael Sutphin, and I am the Mayor of the Town of Blacksburg, Virginia. I respectfully submit these comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in anticipation of the July 23 summit on governance reform for PJM, our regional electric grid operator.

Affordability and reliability of electricity is a growing concern for Blacksburg residents, who have seen utility rates rise in recent years alongside the rapid growth in electricity demand across Virginia, including from data centers. These large energy-using facilities require significant investments in energy infrastructure including new generation facilities, transmission lines, and transformers. If additional infrastructure investments are needed to accommodate this growth, those costs should be allocated fairly rather than disproportionately passed on to residential customers and other ratepayers.

We need appropriate grid planning and regulatory action that protects residents while ensuring the long-term reliability of the electric system. This is especially important for low-income households, which are already facing hard choices between paying utility bills and meeting other essential needs such as housing, food, or medicine.

As the region plans for future energy needs, regulators should prioritize investing in energy efficiency programs (far and away the most cost-effective strategies to manage load growth), renewable energy resources, battery storage, and other infrastructure that can help meet growing demand while improving affordability and grid reliability. Investments that reduce overall demand and diversify our energy supply with clean energy can help lessen pressure on the electric grid, reduce the likelihood of costly rate increases, and strengthen resilience during periods of peak demand.

For residential customers and local businesses, losing power is not just an inconvenience. It can put people's health and safety at risk, result in the loss of food or medicine that requires refrigeration, and cause businesses to lose revenue and their workers to lose wages.

Regulators must hear from and listen to local leaders and decision-makers. Regional Transmission Organization governance must ensure that regulatory policies are informed by the needs of the communities they serve and a real understanding of the impact of those decisions on the lives of our residents and local businesses.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Sutphin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Sutphin, Mayor
Town of Blacksburg, Virginia