

From the states of
Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska,
South Dakota, North Dakota, Oklahoma

April 24, 2025

Submitted to:

Abigail Slater
Assistant Attorney General
Anticompetitive Regulations Task Force
U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

RE: Formal Comment on the Work of the Anticompetitive Regulations Task Force

Assistant Attorney General Slater:

We respectfully submit this formal comment in strong support of the Anticompetitive Regulations Task Force and its mission to identify and eliminate unnecessary laws and regulations that burden American consumers, workers, and businesses.

This initiative, launched under the direction of President Trump and the Antitrust Division, is a vital step toward restoring a competitive economic landscape that fosters innovation, supports entrepreneurship, and protects the rights of consumers. The Executive Orders recently signed by President Trump—Executive Order 14192 and Executive Order 14219—make clear the Administration’s commitment to reducing regulatory burdens and enabling all Americans to benefit from a dynamic, competitive marketplace.

As the Task Force carries out its work, we urge consideration of the successful conservative regulatory models implemented by Elected Republican Public Utility Commissioners across the country. These officials apply time-tested economic principles to regulate electric, natural gas, and water utilities in a manner that is safe, reliable, and affordable—always ensuring that essential services remain accessible and cost-effective. These successful models continue to not only provide low-cost reliable services to the general public but also encourage the development of new commercial and industrial projects providing employment and enhancing the success of the US economy.

In fact, the market structure overseen by these Commissioners offers a prime example of how thoughtful, accountable regulation can align with the goals of the Task Force. Their leadership has created a regulatory environment well-suited to realize President Trump's vision of American Energy Dominance.

Key successes of these states include:

- Rapid planning and regulatory approval of new electric generation projects to meet the demands of growing sectors like data centers and artificial intelligence—protecting American innovation and intellectual property.
- Home to the two largest nuclear energy sites in the country and dozens of new natural gas facilities currently under construction.
- Continued support for President Trump's pro-coal energy strategy, preserving energy diversity and reliability.
- The use of vertically-integrated utility models, with effective balance of the regulatory compact, which effectively serve millions of consumers and small businesses while maintaining some of the most business-friendly climates in the nation.

While the Task Force is rightfully reviewing many burdensome regulations imposed by prior administrations, it is essential to distinguish between regulations that stifle competition and those ensuring stability, affordability, and reliability in essential service markets. The vertically-integrated utility model—successfully managed by elected Republican Public Utility Commissioners—belongs firmly in the latter category.

We encourage the Task Force to recognize the work of these Commissioners as a regulatory success story and to ensure that any reform efforts protect and preserve proven models that serve the public interest without impeding competition.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this comment. We commend the Department of Justice and the Antitrust Division for their leadership and for advancing policies that support free enterprise and economic growth.

Respectfully Submitted by the undersigned State Public Utility Commissioners:

Jeremy Oden
Commissioner, Alabama Public Service Commission

Kevin Thompson
Chair, Arizona Corporation Commission

Lea Marquez-Peterson
Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission

Tricia Pridemore
Commissioner, Georgia Public Service Commission

Eric Skrmetta
Commissioner, Louisiana Public Service Commission

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Sheri Haugen-Hoffart
Commissioner, North Dakota Public Service Commission

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Commissioner, South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

Kim David
Chair, Oklahoma Corporation Committee