

SUGGESTIONS FOR CALLING YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS:

1. Tell the receptionist your hometown whether you are a homeowner or business owner and that you are a registered voter in the district.
2. Explain that you are calling because your electric rates have rapidly recently (be as specific as possible) and you would like to speak about the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's duty to protect consumers with the staffer whose responsibilities include energy legislation.

When you have reached a staffer:

- 1 Electricity rates have risen twice as fast in deregulated states like ours. (Deregulated states are California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Delaware, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island. Ohio and Pennsylvania will soon be deregulated.)
- 2 That's why you urge your elected official to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission take a second look at the broken market it helped create, as mandated by the pending Consumer Protection and Cost Accountability Act.
- 3 It's necessary because the energy commission refuses to investigate how the big power companies get away with overcharging the customers the commission is supposed to protect.
- 4 This creates hardship for the poor and hurts the economy of the district and the state.
- 5 It is vital that Congress make the commission live up to federal law and start acting in the interests of consumers instead of the huge corporations that are amassing record profits under the system we are stuck with now.
- 6 This request for FERC to investigate the rates being paid is supported by a diverse group, including AARP, the Consumer Federation of America, the Steel Manufacturers Association, the American Chemistry Council, the American Public Power Association and three dozen other groups.