CCIF

CRITICAL CONSUMER ISSUES FORUM

July 2026 Report Consensus Principles on

Energy Security Through Resource Adequacy:

Resources and Regulation to Reinforce Reliability, Resilience, and Reasonable Rates for Customers

The Critical Consumer Issues Forum (CCIF)[1] participants from the three core groups[2] developed the following 16 consensus principles (not necessarily in priority order) in four areas as follows:

Recognitions

1: CCIF participants recognize a heightened need for ongoing examination of, and clear and transparent communication concerning, the:
- Drivers of energy system resource adequacy challenges and risks;
- Responsibility and accountability for resource adequacy; and
- Levers and tools available—and those still needed—to ensure resource adequacy.

2: Each state is accountable for (i) how it exercises any applicable authority over the siting and operation of energy system infrastructure, including electric generation and the related grid infrastructure necessary to ensure resource adequacy, and (ii) how its policies and decisions interact with relevant regional and national processes.

3: To most effectively address unprecedented resource adequacy challenges and achieve shared reliability and affordability objectives, CCIF participants reaffirm that collaboration, coordination, and education among the three core groups and customers should complement traditional litigated proceedings.

4: The three core groups should strive to engage with the public, key stakeholders, and policymakers to provide context and achieve an appropriate level of understanding of issues that impact resource adequacy and affordability, such as:
- Regulatory issues and electric company cost drivers generally;
- The value of investments in the energy grid;
- The impacts of system-level resource adequacy decisions on customer bills; and
- Electricity rates and programs to manage customer bills.

Demand Growth[3]

5: To instill greater transparency and public confidence while preserving appropriate confidentiality, regulators or policymakers should ensure the regulatory process allows state-designated consumer advocates to review large load contracts so they can evaluate impacts on other customers before final regulatory decisions are made.

6: If it can be demonstrated that proposed large load additions would put downward pressure on overall customer bills without compromising reliability, state regulators or policymakers should encourage the connection of such resources and customers to the grid.[4]

7: As long as system reliability is not compromised, customers that can provide flexible load should be considered for expedited grid connection.

8: To provide greater transparency and reduce uncertainty posed by the varying methods of forecasting large load demand growth and associated system capacity needs, the three core groups should collaborate to consider establishing large load forecasting frameworks across jurisdictions and time horizons where possible, especially recognizing the rapidly evolving nature of demand driven by emerging technologies.

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[1] For more info about CCIF, please go to https://CCIForum.com or contact Katrina@CCIForum.com.

[2] The phrase **three core groups** refers to state commissions, consumer advocate offices, and electric companies.

[3] For more information about demand growth with respect to large loads, please refer to CCIF's 2025 report, *Demand Growth & Risk Management: Investing in Energy Infrastructure to Meet Customer Needs*.

[4] CCIF participants are not taking a position on questions concerning whether any large load projects *should* be sited. This principle focuses solely on large load projects for which grid connection would demonstrably benefit other customers.

Market Structure & Other Policy Considerations

9: Particularly in light of accelerating demand growth, federal, state, and local government leaders should recognize the need for diverse, cost-effective capacity and energy resources and should carefully consider the potential impacts on reliability and affordability for electric customers when contemplating policies—whether mandates or prohibitions—that limit resource options or constrain the ability to deliver needed capacity.

10: To the extent market designs produce unreasonable customer pricing or fail to meet resource adequacy requirements, states should explore actions to ensure resource adequacy and deliver positive results for customers.

11: Given present challenges to maintaining resource adequacy at the lowest reasonable cost, states (regardless of market structure) should consider the valuable perspectives of state commissions and their ability to convene robust dialogues with diverse stakeholders and to determine the public interest.

12: State commissions with resource planning authority are encouraged to provide more clarity on forward-looking resource planning outcomes and associated investment approaches to pave the way for the timely and efficient procurement and permitting of new generation and transmission resources at the lowest reasonable cost.

Customer Affordability & Cost Allocation

13: Customer affordability, including total bill outcomes for all customer classes, should be valued and considered throughout the regulatory cycle of planning, investment, and rate recovery.

14: State commissions should periodically reevaluate cost allocation methodologies to ensure that they continue to accurately assign costs and revenues to customer classes in the face of changing system loads, without unduly burdening other customers or creating unintended cost shifts.

15: Regional grid operators should provide transparency and periodic reviews into (i) how they allocate infrastructure costs due to large loads to ensure other customers are held harmless, and (ii) the resulting impacts on customer bills.

16: With the input of consumer advocates and key stakeholders, state commissions and electric companies should continue to consider mitigating customer bill impacts associated with resource adequacy through customer affordability programs[5] and cost-effective energy efficiency and demand response programs.

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Instructions: (1) Point phone's camera at respective QR code. (2) Wait for code to scan. (3) Download/open content.

[5] For more information about customer affordability programs, please refer to CCIF's 2021 report, *Supporting Electricity Customers Through Times of Crisis: Being There When It Matters Most*.