



**INTERNATIONAL
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Addressed
individually
to the
U.S. Senate

November 18, 2003

TIME SENSITIVE

The Honorable Daniel K. Akaka
United States Senate
SH-141 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1103

Dear Senator Akaka:

On behalf of the 780,000 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I object to both the process by which the Energy Policy Act of 2003 (H.R. 6) deal was reached as well as the end product. The conference report passed last night by the House and Senate Conference Committee can only be described as a giveaway for special energy interests while it ignores the real energy concerns of the American people. I urge you to oppose this bill when it comes to the Senate floor for a vote this Thursday.

There are many objectionable issues in the conference report, but two are particularly troubling:

- **Repeal of the Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA).**

The proposed energy bill will remove a bedrock consumer protection law that has been in place since 1932. PUHCA was designed to prevent corruption by large holding companies. Unfettered consolidations in the utility sector arising from PUHCA repeal and loss of consumer protection will harm industry workers and electricity ratepayers.

- **Inadequate protections against energy market manipulations.**

The facts are not in on the Western energy crisis or the 2003 Northeast blackout. It is too soon to try to fix abundant electricity market flaws when we still do not have the whole story. The report from the Energy Department on the recent blackout has not been released. We have no way of determining this legislation's effect on preventing future incidences of market manipulation or operating practices such as the ones that can be related to the blackout of August 14, 2003.

I urge you to **oppose** the conference report on H.R. 6. The last thing the nation, workers and consumers need at this time is a costly and ill-conceived energy bill.

Sincerely,

Edwin D. Hill
International President

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