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Assembly Passes Bill to Cut Power Line Costs for Wisconsin Ratepayers

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Madison – The Wisconsin State Assembly passed a bill today to help lower transmission costs for Wisconsin electricity customers.

[AB 470](#), known as the ROFR bill, grants Wisconsin-based transmission providers the Right of First Refusal to build, own and operate interstate power lines.

Supporters, including investor-owned energy providers, cooperatives, public power, energy workers and utility shareowners assert that the bill will help cut transmission costs by sharing them with other states that benefit from the use of interstate power lines.

The transmission portion of your electric bill, roughly 10%, can now be reduced by about 85% because the entity that runs the regional grid allows this cost-sharing mechanism for incumbent providers. Out of state developers do not have the option to share these costs.

“This is a win for electricity customers in Wisconsin”, said Bill Skewes, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Utilities Association.

Another attribute of the legislation is that it maintains in-state regulation of transmission providers, rather than using a cumbersome and expensive federal process that typically adds two years to an already lengthy procedure.

“The whole point of this bill is cutting costs for ratepayers by splitting the transmission bill with other states and speeding up the process to get these critical facilities built. Keeping Wisconsin’s PSC in charge makes much more sense than turning over our grid to the feds’ process.”

The ROFR bill passed the Assembly without debate on a voice vote Thursday and heads to the Senate for final legislative approval.

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