

**AFL-CIO * Consumer Federation of America * Consumers Union * Friends of the Earth *
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers *
Natural Resources Defense Council * Public Citizen * Sierra Club *
U.S. Public Interest Research Group * Utility Workers Union of America**

July 22, 2004

One Year after the Blackout, Support Discharge Petition #10 to Ensure a Reliable Energy Future

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our members around the country who want a reliable, affordable electric system, we urge you to sign onto Discharge Petition #10. Discharge Petition # 10 would discharge H.R. 3004 "The Electric Reliability Improvement Act of 2003," which takes an important first step in preventing future blackouts. As we approach the one-year anniversary of the massive August blackout, it's well past the time to address the problems experienced from an out-dated electricity grid. The massive August blackout of 2003 was caused by insufficient industrial accountability. Instead of focusing only on steps to increase accountability and prevent blackouts, the House passed HR 6, which would also remove important electricity consumer protections and decrease industry accountability by repealing the Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA).

We urge you to support legislation introduced by Rep. John Dingell to improve the reliability of the Nation's electric transmission system (H.R. 3004) as a first step in preventing future blackouts. This legislation is identical to reliability provisions in H.R. 6, and would give the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) authority to oversee mandatory electric reliability standards, devised by an Electric Reliability Organization (ERO).

Congress should approve legislation immediately in order to help avoid a similar and possibly worse blackout scenario this year. We urge you to sign onto Discharge Petition 10 to discharge H.R. 3004, and take the first step in preventing future blackouts.

Sincerely,

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AFL-CIO

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International Brotherhood
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Brian McCarthy
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