Consumer Fact Sheet

Affordable Grid Coalition — What You Need to Know

What's happening?

Every time electricity gets congested on the transmission grid — like a traffic jam on a highway — the extra cost shows up on **your electric bill**. Today, there's a system meant to give some of that money back, but it is consistently less than the costs you incur. The gap between what was forecast and what actually happened? That's on you.

How much are we talking about?

$30.8B
Total congestion charges across PJM, MISO, SPP since 2018

$11.9B
The amount consumers didn't get back — only 61% returned

$7.1B
Extra revenue available with real-time hedging tools

$29.3B
Total value left on the table vs. a complete hedging system

And these numbers only cover three of the seven U.S. electricity markets. Analysis of New York (NYISO) and California (CAISO) is still underway.

Why is this happening?

Think of it like planning a road trip with a paper map months in advance. You pick your route, lock it in, and hope for the best. But you couldn't possibly see the traffic jam occurring today. Utilities do the same thing every year. When congestion actually materializes in real-time, these patterns are different than what was expected.

> An RT Congestion Hedge is like upgrading to GPS with live traffic data — it manages what's actually happening on the grid right now, not what was expected a year ago.

Is there a fix?

Yes — and it already works in Texas.

The Texas electricity market (ERCOT) gives participants a real-time congestion hedge at every point on the grid. The result: the congestion that is happening today can be managed effectively.

The fix doesn't require new laws. The federal regulator (FERC) already has the power to order other markets to adopt similar tools.

What's being done about it?

The **Affordable Grid Coalition** is filing formal complaints at FERC in **April 2026** asking that PJM, MISO, and SPP implement real-time congestion hedging tools — with New York and California filings to follow.

These filings are supported by:

- 8 years of public settlement data across three markets
- Independent Market Monitor recommendations dating back to 2013
- A proven model already running in Texas

What can I do?

1. Sign the coalition support letter

Add your name at affordablegrid.org/action — it takes 30 seconds.

2. Contact your state regulators

Your State PUC oversees the utilities that pass these costs to you. Your AG can investigate consumer protection failures. Both can file supporting comments at FERC. Find your contacts at affordablegrid.org.

3. Spread the word

Share this fact sheet with neighbors, community groups, and local representatives. The more voices, the stronger the case.

Key terms, simplified

TERM	WHAT IT MEANS
Congestion	A traffic jam on the power grid that raises electricity prices at that location
ARR/FTR	The current system meant to return congestion costs to consumers
RT Congestion Hedge	A new tool that would cover the gap between forecasts and reality — already working in Texas
FERC	The federal agency that oversees electricity markets — they can order this fix
Section 206	The legal mechanism the coalition is using to ask FERC to act

Data analysis by XO Energy, LLC. All congestion data sourced from ISO public settlement records.