

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri called on Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Chairman Jon Wellinghoff today to reject the request made by New York Regional Interconnection (NYRI) for a re-hearing of their power line proposal through Upstate New York.

“I promised my constituents from day one that I would remain vigilant to the tricks and underhanded attempts by NYRI to get their flawed power line project approved against the will of the people of Upstate New York,” **Arcuri said**, “I have not let down my guard and will fight to ensure that FERC continues to uphold their decision in this matter and make certain that the NYRI issue is dead once and for all.”

On April 29th, 2009, NYRI requested a rehearing on FERC’s March 31, 2009 Order that essentially ended NYRI’s potential for a guaranteed rate of return of 13.5% for the life of its transmission project. On April 3 2009, NYRI announced that it had withdrawn its proposal to the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) in regards to the proposed power line. NYRI cited the original ruling FERC handed down against the power line group as their reasoning behind their withdrawal.

“The people of New York are not unfamiliar with this sort of attempted slight of hand from NYRI,” **Arcuri wrote in his letter to FERC**. “Unfortunately, NYRI refuses to accept what is obvious to everyone else – that its project faces unanimous opposition and will not improve the transmission grid or ease congestion in New York State.”

On April 7th, 2009, House Energy Committee Chairman U.S. Rep Henry Waxman at Arcuri’s request sent a letter to FERC strongly recommending they do not consider the NYRI proposal further as they had withdrawn their application and to do so would sidestep the true intent of the legislation. Chairman Waxman was also sent a copy of Arcuri’s letter to FERC Chairman Jon Wellinghoff.

The text of the letter to FERC Chairman Wellinghoff is below:

The Honorable Jon Wellinghoff, Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Wellinghoff:

I am writing in regard to the request by New York Regional Interconnection (NYRI) for a rehearing on the Order of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) dated March 31, 2009. I urge you to reject this most recent long-shot effort by NYRI to breathe new life into its ill conceived and poorly planned project.

FERC has already twice rejected NYRI's current argument. The March 31st Order, of which NYRI is currently seeking a rehearing, denied NYRI's request for a rehearing of FERC's October 16, 2008 on nearly identical grounds. In addition, on April 3rd, 2009, NYRI formally withdrew its application to build its proposed transmission line. NYRI withdrew its application without allowing the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) to complete its review and render a decision. It appears now that NYRI became concerned that the PSC would deny its application and are now clearly attempting to circumvent the FERC legislation. I strongly urge FERC to stand by its earlier Order and deny NYRI's request at this time.

The people of New York are not unfamiliar with this sort of attempted sleight of hand from NYRI. Unfortunately, NYRI refuses to accept what is obvious to everyone else – that its project faces unanimous opposition and will not improve the transmission grid or of New York State.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A. ARCURI
Member of Congress

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