



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2015

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Statement by the *Customers First!* Coalition opposing the Joint Committee on Finance vote on 4/15/15 to decrease funding for the Public Service Commission's intervenor compensation program.

Action by the Joint Committee on Finance to drastically cut funding for ratepayer representation at the Public Service Commission will significantly diminish the consumer's voice in decisions affecting the cost and quality of utility service in Wisconsin. Efficient and effective utility regulation requires regulators to make sound judgements in which all viewpoints are carefully weighed and considered. The consumer's role in this process is critical and must be maintained. We urge legislators to reverse the decision by the Finance Committee so Wisconsin consumers have a voice in assuring safe, reliable, and affordable utility services.

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The Customers First! Coalition is an alliance of customer groups, rural electric cooperatives, municipal electric utilities, wholesale energy providers, utility workers, renewable energy advocates, and an investor-owned utility. For more information, see www.customersfirst.org