



Edison Electric  
INSTITUTE

# Energy **Talk**

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## Your Monthly Energy News Digest

February 2026

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**Introducing Urbint Callout**  
Optimize Mobilization Without Losing Compliance



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### IN THIS ISSUE

- New Charles River Associates report found average retail electricity rates have largely tracked inflation during the past five years.
  - EEI President and CEO Drew Maloney joined a NARUC Winter Policy Summit panel to discuss grid resilience and industry-government partnership.
  - Maloney discussed permitting reform with the *Washington Examiner*.
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### TOP STORY

## Powering America



America's electric companies are a cornerstone of the nation's economic strength—delivering reliable energy, deploying new technologies, and supporting jobs in every state. Ahead of President Donald Trump's State of the Union address, EEI President and CEO Drew Maloney said:

*"America's investor-owned electric companies power the grid—the most important engine in our country. EEI and our member companies have been working closely with the Trump Administration throughout the past year to strengthen grid reliability and lower energy costs for all customers. Through significant investments in infrastructure and in our communities, we are powering the economy and delivering the energy of every day for nearly 250 million Americans."*

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## FOCUS ON DATA

# **New Analysis Finds U.S. Electricity Rates Have Remained Stable in a Majority of States, With Region-Specific Increases Driven by Local Factors**



An independent analysis conducted by Charles River Associates found that average retail electricity rates have largely tracked inflation during the past five years. The study concluded that electricity rates have remained broadly stable in the majority of states, with upward shifts in customer costs confined to specific regions and driven by local factors rather than the result of a nationwide trend. The report also found that—outside of the PJM Interconnection region—customers have largely been protected from cost increases related to data centers.

Read more of the report's findings [on EEI's website](#).

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## PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

# EEI President and CEO Drew Maloney Discusses Grid Resilience at NARUC's Winter Policy Summit



During the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' (NARUC's) Winter Policy Summit, EEI President and CEO Drew Maloney joined a panel discussion on the importance of grid resilience and industry-government coordination, particularly in response to extreme weather events.

*"The grid is the most important engine in America. If the grid doesn't work, America doesn't work,"* Maloney said, noting that EEI member companies are actively investing to make the grid more resilient to threats like winter storms. *"Our members will be investing more than \$1 trillion in the coming years to make it more reliable, more resilient, and more affordable."*

Maloney was joined in conversation by NARUC President and Washington Utilities and Transportation Commissioner Ann Rendahl, NCTA President and CEO Cory Gardner, American Gas Association President and CEO Karen Harbert, Florida Public Service Commission Commissioner Mike La Rosa, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO Jim Matheson, and American Water Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Cheryl Norton.

Read more on [the \*Electric Perspectives\* website](#).

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TUNE IN

## The Electric Perspectives Podcast



The *Electric Perspectives* podcast features the latest trends and issues shaping the electric power industry.

On a recent episode, EEI President and CEO Drew Maloney and Charles River Associates (CRA) Energy Practice Vice President Matt DeCoursey discussed CRA's new analysis of U.S. electricity rates and what the data reveals about electricity rate trends, regional factors, and the role of data centers.

[Listen to the episode here](#) or wherever you get your podcasts.

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FOCUS ON PERMITTING

## EEI President and CEO Drew Maloney Talks Permitting Reform With Washington Examiner



EEI President and CEO Drew Maloney recently spoke with the *Washington Examiner* about how advancing permitting reform can help to increase reliability and lower costs for customers while strengthening energy dominance.

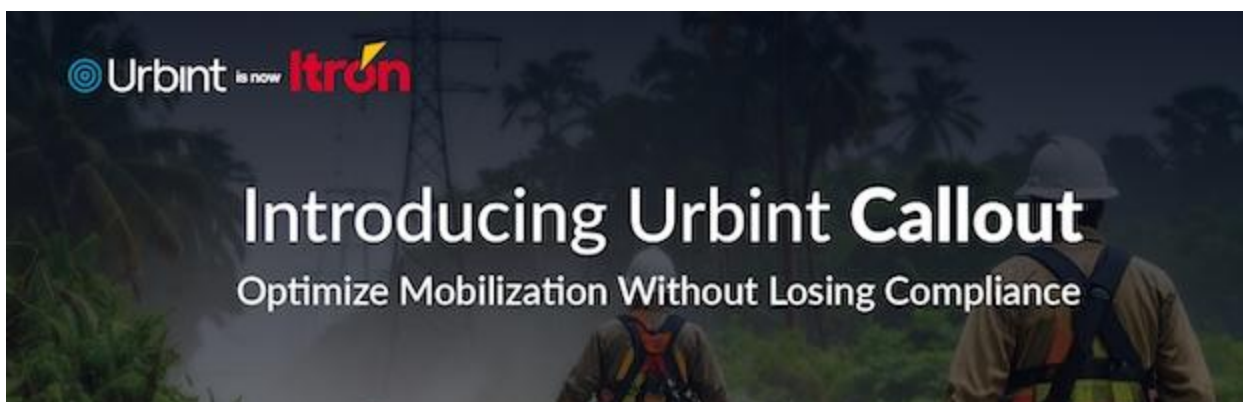
*“What these large load agreements are trying to do is protect customers,”* said Maloney. *“They’re requiring the data centers to fund their interconnection, fund upgrades to the grid, and ultimately benefit the customer. If you look at a lot of the recent announcements that we’ve seen, the benefits to customers, the benefits to the local tax base are in the billions of dollars. Over the long term, this is a win-win for the communities, for the electric companies, for the customers, because we’re going to get a more resilient grid.”*

Find the full interview [on EEI’s website](#).

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## SPONSORED CONTENT

### Introducing Urbint Callout



When disaster strikes, the gap between “notified” and “deployed” is where restoration timelines are won or lost. [Urbint Callout](#) transforms this critical window, making crew mobilization both lightning-fast and flawlessly compliant.

Whether you are currently struggling with manual phone trees or frustrated by legacy software, Urbint Callout eliminates the friction. Our solution automates callouts in seconds, instantly applying complex union rules, seniority, and fatigue protocols to ensure your response is defensible and fair.

By integrating workforce mobilization directly into your broader storm management workflow, you eliminate the data silos that slow down decision-making. Gain real-time visibility into crew acceptance and automated documentation for every call made. With Urbint Callout, you aren't just making phone calls; you are orchestrating a precise, high-speed response. Ensure the right people are always in the right place—every single time.

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#### WHAT WE'RE READING

## Electric Companies Advocate for More LIHEAP Funding



America's investor-owned electric companies are **advocating** for more LIHEAP funding to support their **most vulnerable customers.**

#ProtectLIHEAP

America's investor-owned electric companies and other advocates of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) partnered on February 25 for LIHEAP Action Day, when industry leaders engaged with policymakers on Capitol Hill to emphasize the importance of this customer support program.

LIHEAP provides federal assistance to qualifying customers to help cover their heating and cooling expenses—as well as other costs associated with home energy bills, energy crises, weatherization, and minor energy-related home improvements.

## IN THE NEWS

### Energy News Across America



#### [DOE Doles out Its Largest Ever Loan: \\$26.5B for Power in Georgia, Alabama](#)

The U.S. Department of Energy announced on Wednesday a \$26.5 billion loan to Southern Company subsidiaries Georgia Power and Alabama Power to fund new gas projects, improvements to existing nuclear and hydro facilities, and upgrades to transmission and battery storage systems.

#### [Setting the Record Straight on Missouri's Energy Position](#)

Former Missouri State Senator and Chairman of the Missouri Public Service Commission Scott Rupp wrote about the state senate's bill to better integrate data centers and other large energy users onto the energy grid while protecting customers and keeping costs low.

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REGISTER NOW

## Join Us in Las Vegas for EEI 2026



Registration is now open for EEI 2026, our premier annual conference and thought leadership event. Join us at the Fontainebleau Las Vegas from June 2-4 to explore the forces defining and shaping the electric power industry today, and tomorrow. [Register now](#) to take advantage of early bird rates.

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GET SOCIAL

**Follow EEI on TikTok**



**Edison Electric Institute**

36,976 followers

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We're on TikTok. Yes, that's us. ⚡

There's an evolving conversation about energy happening on TikTok, and we believe it's important to be part of it. We're showing up to highlight how we power our economy and the dedicated professionals who keep the lights on every day.

Press play to see our first story: [#WinterStormFern](#).

This historic storm brought ice and freezing temperatures to the South and Mid-Atlantic, but it also showcased the unprecedented coordination of the electric power industry.

Watch the thousands of lineworkers and support personnel who traveled across state lines to restore power to neighbors in need and provide the Energy of Every Day.

Follow us and follow along: <https://bit.ly/4cy4EB9>



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