**OPENING STATEMENT**
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**BEFORE THE U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
**MINORITY ROUNDTABLE ON ELECTRICITY PRICES**

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Thank you, Ranking Member Heinrich, and Members of the Committee. I'm Paula Glover, President of the Alliance to Save Energy.

It's an honor to join you today to discuss how we protect affordability for American families and businesses at a moment when the electricity system is under historic pressure.

Across the country, utilities are facing rapid load growth driven by data centers, AI, electrification, and new manufacturing. Demand is rising much faster than new generation and transmission can be built, creating a widening gap between near-term needs and long-term infrastructure timelines.

When that gap widens, the cost of new infrastructure often falls on families and small business owners—many of whom are already struggling with rising energy bills.

The good news is this: rising demand does not have to mean rising electricity prices.

Energy efficiency, flexible demand, distributed energy resources, and virtual power plants are real, proven solutions. They can be deployed far faster—and at lower cost—than traditional infrastructure, serving as a practical bridge while new generation and transmission come online.

Energy efficiency protects affordability in two ways. At the system level, it lowers peak demand, helping utilities avoid or defer the most expensive investments that drive rates. At the customer level, it directly reduces energy use and bills—especially through foundational measures like weatherization, which are critical for households with the highest energy burdens.

At the Alliance, we've been working with utilities, regulators, and large customers on a framework called Bring Your Own Distributed Capacity, or BYODC. The idea is straightforward: when large energy users add load, they help fund incremental efficiency and demand-side resources that deliver real, verifiable capacity for the grid.

This approach gives utilities faster capacity relief, strengthens reliability, supports economic growth, and helps protect customers from unnecessary cost increases.

Yet today, demand-side solutions remain dramatically underutilized. They are not consistently treated as capacity in planning or interconnection, despite their speed and cost advantages.

We don’t need a one-size-fits-all mandate. What we need is national leadership that helps states and utilities fully use the tools they already have—through clear measurement and accreditation, rapid deployment of home energy rebates, and scalable pathways for virtual power plants.

This is a rare moment. The choices we make now can protect families, strengthen reliability, and ensure affordability as demand grows.

Demand-side solutions are the fastest path to affordability, the smartest path to reliability, and the most cost-effective way to meet the energy future ahead.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.