



## **News Release**

### **APPA Commends Senators Sanders and Snowe in Calling for Consumer Protections from Unjustified Electricity Costs**

**Washington, D.C., February 26, 2008**—The American Public Power Association (APPA) announced today their support for legislation introduced by Sens. Bernard Sanders (I-VT) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) that spotlights problems in the wholesale electric market.

The Consumer Protection and Cost Accountability Act (S. 2660), also sponsored by Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), John Kerry (D-MA), and Patrick Leahy (D-VT), calls for electric market regulators and operators to consider potential adverse effects before implementing market mechanisms that could potentially pass on billions of dollars in costs to consumers and businesses. Independent system operators (ISOs) and regional transmission organizations (RTOs) would be required to perform cost/benefit analyses demonstrating consumer benefits as a result of market changes. These ISOs and RTOs would be subject to biennial, independent audits that would be made available to the public.

“Prices are rapidly rising in states served by deregulated wholesale markets, and consumers and businesses are taking the brunt of the fall-out.” said APPA President & CEO Mark Crisson, “We support this important effort to protect jobs and working households. We hope this bill will spur federal regulators to take a harder look at how to maintain just and reasonable pricing in the wholesale electric market. ”

APPA is the national service organization for the nation's more than 2,000 community- and state-owned electric utilities serving 45 million people. The organization's Electric Market Reform Initiative addresses the pervasive and increasingly serious problems in the nation's wholesale electricity markets, particularly the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission-approved regional transmission organization (RTO)-run markets.

For more information on EMRI: <http://www.APPAnet.org>.

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