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EEI, Illinois Citizens Utility Board, National Consumer Law Center, NRDC, and Sierra Club Issue Joint Statement Supporting Electric Transportation

WASHINGTON (Tuesday, February 11, 2020) - The Edison Electric Institute, Illinois Citizens Utility Board, National Consumer Law Center, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Sierra Club today released a joint statement in support of transportation electrification and action by electric utilities to accelerate it. The statement explains how utility involvement can and must deliver benefits to all customers, particularly those in communities most impacted by air pollution and facing burdensome household energy costs. The statement was presented and was discussed during a breakfast briefing held by the Institute for Electric Innovation on the sidelines of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' winter policy summit.

The joint statement reads:

The Edison Electric Institute, Illinois Citizens Utility Board, National Consumer Law Center, Natural Resources Defense Council, and Sierra Club find:

1. There are now more than 1.3 million plug-in electric vehicles in the United States. Numerous independent studies conclude that transportation electrification can provide widespread benefits to all utility customers, the environment, and public health; and
2. There is a need for appropriate electric company involvement to accelerate transportation electrification and to ensure that it provides benefits to all customers. The following principles should inform an electric company effort in supporting transportation electrification:
 - Transportation electrification should benefit all utility customers, including those in communities that are burdened disproportionately by local air pollution from the transportation sector and low-income households that spend a disproportionate share of their income on vehicle fuel and maintenance.
 - Transportation electrification should avoid placing financial burdens related to the transition to electric vehicles on those who can least afford it;
 - Costs associated with utility investments designed to support transportation electrification should generally be recovered over a timeframe that corresponds to the expected

- realization of future economic benefits from the electrification of the transportation sector;
- Electric utilities should track metrics within their control that measure the benefits of transportation electrification, such as the following:
 - Success in monitoring, prioritizing, maintaining or improving the affordability of electric service for low-income households and in enhancing household energy security;
 - Success in increasing access to the use of electricity as a transportation fuel in low-income and disadvantaged communities;
 - Success in improving the utilization of the grid to put downward pressure on electricity rates and translating these improvements into benefits for all customers;
 - Success in using the integration of variable renewable, zero-emission generating resources in meeting the growing needs of transportation; and

 - Utility investments that support transportation electrification should be designed to:
 - Lower household expenditures by increasing access to the use of clean and affordable electricity as a transportation fuel, including in low-income and disadvantaged communities;
 - Improve local air quality in communities burdened by pollution from the transportation sector, including by supporting the electrification of buses, medium and heavy-duty trucks, and other vehicles and equipment.
 - Improve the utilization of the electric grid, putting downward pressure on rates to the benefit of all customers, including low-income customers and customers in disadvantaged communities; and
 - Take advantage of the flexibility and energy storage inherent in electric vehicles to facilitate the integration of variable renewable, zero-emission generating resources.

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EI is the association that represents all U.S. investor-owned electric companies. Our members provide electricity for more than 220 million Americans, and operate in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. As a whole, the electric power industry supports more than 7 million jobs in communities across the United States. In addition to our U.S. members, EI has more than 65 international electric companies as International Members, and hundreds of industry suppliers and related organizations as Associate Members.

Called the “gold standard for consumer groups” nationwide by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, CUB advocates for consumer-friendly policies, provides money-saving advice, and fights for affordable clean energy. Since opening its doors in 1984, CUB has saved Illinois consumers more than \$20 billion by helping to block rate hikes, secure refunds, and fighting for carbon-free, low-cost energy. For more information call CUB’s Consumer Hotline, 1-800-669-5556, or visit its award-winning website, www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org.

Since 1969, the nonprofit [National Consumer Law Center](#)[®] (NCLC[®]) has used its expertise in consumer law and energy policy to work for consumer justice and economic security for low-income and other disadvantaged people in the U.S. through its expertise in policy analysis and advocacy, publications, litigation, expert witness services, and training.

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) is an international nonprofit environmental organization with more than 3 million members and online activists. Since 1970, our lawyers, scientists, and other environmental specialists have worked to protect the world's natural resources, public health, and the environment. NRDC has offices in New York City, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Bozeman, MT, and Beijing. Visit us at www.nrdc.org and follow us on Twitter @NRDC.

The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3.8 million members and supporters. In addition to protecting every person's right to get outdoors and access the healing power of nature, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. For more information, visit www.sierraclub.org.