

KRISTIN GILKES

Customers First Coalition

Kristin Ruesch Gilkes joined the Customers First! Coalition as executive director on September 5, 2017. In this role, she has continued advocacy efforts on behalf of the Customers First! Coalition and expanded the group's educational outreach efforts with the introduction of the Electric Wire podcast, which Kristin currently hosts monthly. The Customers First! Coalition has been in existence for over two decade and has a mission of preserving Wisconsin's affordable and reliable power through effective regulation. The Coalition hosts regular Power Breakfast events, podcasts, and webinars to help policymakers and the public understand the full impacts of energy proposals as they are considered. Kristin's career in the energy industry spans over two decades. In the Wisconsin State Legislature, she served as an aide to then-state Representative Phil Montgomery (R-Ashwaubenon), who chaired the Assembly energy and utilities committee, with Kristin eventually serving as committee clerk. She has also been a spokesperson for several high-profile political campaigns, served as communications director at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, and worked in public affairs for Alliant Energy. She has served on the Wisconsin Women in Government board of directors, is a member of the WPUI board of directors, and is a graduate of Leadership of Greater Madison. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is working toward a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.