

November 19, 2015

CPS Energy
P.O. Box 1771
San Antonio, TX 78296-1771

Dear Chair Chavez and CPS Energy Trustees
cc: Mayor Ivy Taylor and City Council

As concerned businesses, organizations and civic leaders, we call on San Antonio to help reach a bold solar future in Texas by selecting a new CEO for CPS Energy that is committed to maximizing CPS Energy's solar power capacity.

Solar is on the rise in Texas and across the country, with another solar panel installed in the United States every 2.5 minutes. Since 2010, solar has grown in Texas 84 percent annually, yet Texas has still only scratched the surface of our vast solar potential. Recent data from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory shows that Texas could generate 170 times the electricity we currently use, just from the sun.

CPS Energy's leadership and innovation has contributed significantly to the growth of solar in Texas. The utility currently ranks 1st in Texas and 7th in the nation for solar capacity, with enough solar online to power over 8,000 homes. Through smart investments, such as the OCI Solar Power contract to generate 400 MW of solar and bring hundreds of solar manufacturing jobs to the city, CPS Energy has simultaneously boosted our local economy and lowered carbon emissions and air pollution.

The price of solar has dropped drastically and is now cost competitive with fossil fuels. In Texas, Georgetown and Austin have recently taken advantage of historically low prices to set more ambitious solar goals. Georgetown committed to dropping fossil fuels entirely and switching to 100% renewables, while Austin quadrupled the city's solar goal to 950 Megawatts of solar by 2025.

Solar energy is an incredibly valuable resource. Placing more solar energy on the grid lowers the need for expensive new fossil fuel power plants, the cost of which would otherwise be passed to electric consumers. Solar energy also provides value to our environment by reducing harmful emissions that cause air pollution and climate change.

CPS Energy has played an important role in the growth of a thriving solar industry in Texas, so we encourage you to select a CEO for CPS Energy that will continue to show leadership on solar and support policies that have worked to provide greater access to the sun's energy. These policies include net energy metering, solar rebates, shared community solar, utility scale solar and interconnection policies that allow for solar customers to access the grid.

In addition to a commitment to an expanded use of scalable solar power, the new manager should be a person with a bold vision for incorporating increased use of demand response and energy efficiency as a peak shaving and energy savings tool and the use of distributed and transmission-level energy storage, including batteries, capacitors, the use of electric vehicles, flywheels, chilling stations, and, if cost-effective and available, compressed air energy storage (CAES) systems. While CPS Energy and the City Council adopted 2020 goals for demand management by reducing peak demand by 781 MWs by 2020, San Antonio will easily surpass

these figures, and it is time to set new goals and a new vision for the use of distributed energy resources and energy storage technologies.

By establishing, maintaining and expanding upon these proven policies, we can achieve a future powered by the sun in Texas. Please support solar energy so that all Texans may access this clean, virtually limitless and valuable energy resource.

Sincerely,

Betty Dabney
Chair
First Unitarian Universalist Green Sanctuary Team

Krystal Henagan
Texas Field Organizer
Moms Clean Air Force

Richard Alles
Boardmember
Aquifer Guardians of Urban Areas (AGUA)

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Sustainable San Antonio

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Executive Director
Texas Drought Project

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Texas Director
Public Citizen

Cyrus Reed
Conservation Director
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Bexar Audubon Society

Nicole Amri
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Say Si

John E. Bellett
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Vincent P. Fonseca, MD, MPH, FACPM
Former Texas State Epidemiologist

Dr. Luis Hestress, PhD
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Sabrina Hammel
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Northeast Lakeview College

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director
Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance

Tenna Florian
AIA, LEED AP, Lake Flato Architects

Bill Swann
Director of Staff and Administration
Episcopal Church of Reconciliation

Sundar Balakrishnan
NABCEP Certified PV Installation Professional TM
Space City Solar

Paige Ginn
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Raba Kistner Consultants

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