

May 2, 2023

Dear Representative,

We, the undersigned, urge you to oppose bills that would jeopardize Texas' leadership in developing solar and wind energy, increasing costs to consumers and threatening the environment and public health.

Our clean energy programs are working. Texas has more than tripled the amount of wind and solar generated in the last 10 years, and renewable energy now accounts for over 31% of electricity sales on the Texas grid. And clean energy has never been cheaper. For example, the price of solar energy dropped 89% between 2009 and 2019.

That's resulted in huge benefits for Texas' environment and saved consumers money. Between 2010 and August 2022, renewable energy in ERCOT helped:

- Save 244 billion gallons of water, critical for our often drought-plagued state
- Avoid 416,000 tons of deadly sulfur dioxide emissions and 318,000 tons of smog-forming nitrogen dioxide pollution being pumped into the air, saving between \$4.7 and \$48.4 billion in healthcare costs for impacted Texans
- Prevent the release of 558 million tons of global-warming pollution, the equivalent of 135 coal fired power plants emit in 1 year.
- Save consumers \$27.8 billion on their electric bills
- Wind and solar have also helped keep the lights on, often "bailing out" the electric grid when demand surges.

Texans' overwhelmingly support more investment in clean energy. A recent poll by the University of Houston found that "64% of Texans favor expanding U.S. reliance on solar power plants, 59% favor reliance on geothermal plants and 57% favor reliance on wind turbine farms. In comparison, 42% favored increasing reliance on nuclear power plants and natural gas-fired power plants."

Unfortunately, a package of bills could instead lead renewable energy development in Texas to grind to a halt, including by capping how much renewable energy the state can produce (HB 4836), unfairly assign new transmission fees (SB 1287) and "ancillary services" fees (SB 7) and establish "firming" requirements (SB 2015), create onerous permitting requirements (SB 624), eliminate any remaining state tax credits for renewables (SB 2014) and fundamentally change how electricity is bought and sold in Texas (SB 6). That would mean more air pollution threatening our health and higher electric bills.

We should be doubling down on our clean energy programs and figuring out how to take advantage of new federal incentives to deliver more clean renewable energy to our homes. There

are far cheaper and cleaner ways to boost grid reliability. For example, a 2021 report by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy found that aggressive deployment of energy efficiency and demand response could offset about 7,650 megawatts (MW) of summer peak load and 11,400 MW of winter peak load at half the cost of the new gas plants funded by SB 6.

We urge you to reject attacks on wind and solar power and instead focus on solutions for a cleaner, more reliable, more affordable electric grid.

Sincerely,

Luke Metzger
Executive Director, Environment Texas

Hon. Clay Jenkins
Dallas County Judge

Hon. Jasmine Crockett
US Congresswoman

Hon. Carolyn King Arnold
Dallas Mayor Pro Tem

Hon. Chad West
Dallas City Councilman

Hon. Omar Narvaez
Dallas City Councilman

Hon. Jaime Resendez
Dallas City Councilman

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Dallas County District Attorney

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