By:  Hall S.C.R. No. 1

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Our food and water supplies, communications, banking, hospitals, law enforcement, and countless critical functions depend on the electric grid, and its protection is vital to homeland security; and

WHEREAS, In February 2021, Winter Storm Uri provided a harsh reminder of the importance of the Texas power grid as weather-related failures left many residents and businesses without access to heat; in April and June, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas responded to power generation outages by issuing requests for citizens to temporarily reduce energy use; and

WHEREAS, Although more work remains to be done in preventing energy shortages, Texas is fortunate to have its own power grid; the state is thus capable of hardening its own electric system to ensure reliable electricity in any environment for residents, businesses, and state and local government, as well as for U.S. military bases; for example, during the 87th Regular Session, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 3, which requires power generation companies in Texas to prepare their facilities for extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, Protecting the grid from all threats would provide substantial economic benefits; as the federal government closes military bases around the country, Texas bases would likely survive closure because of their enhanced energy security; moreover, companies considering relocation or expansion would clearly find the assurance of secure power immensely valuable and look to the Lone Star State; and

WHEREAS, The protection of the electric grid is essential to the security and continued prosperity of our state and nation, and Texas is prepared to do its part to ensure that citizens can rely completely on the power system that sustains our society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas, 2nd Called Session, hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of representatives to create a joint interim committee to study the security of the Texas electric grid; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee include members of the Public Utilities Commission, Electric Reliability Council of Texas and other relevant stakeholder groups; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee submit a full report, including findings and recommendations, to the 88th Texas Legislature in January 2023; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be governed by such general rules and policies for interim committees as the 87th Texas Legislature may adopt.