

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 3460

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: April 14, 2021 8:00 AM

Meriam Elawad

MOVE Texas

Austin, TX

My name is Meriam Elawad,

I am a junior at St. Edward's University here in Austin. Where I am double majoring in environmental science and political science. I want to be an environmental lawyer, with a focus in social justice. In my environmental classes I am oftentimes the only racial minority. Which is sad, and unfortunate but it also makes sense. Because Environmental work and activism is very privileged. Most times when minorities are leading activist work they are fighting for their right to live. Everyone else gets to be an activist for the environment for more green spaces or parks in their areas. This isn't the case with minorities.

Because of this minorities are often forgotten in environmental work. In Austin specifically the environmental movement started directly on the backs of minorities. white austinites did not want power plants and dirty energy on their sides of town so they lobbied to have them put on the Poorer side of Town. and then they lobbied for the creation of low income housing on these same sides of town where they had just stuck these power plants. Every environmental action that we do now is directly rooted in This Racist idea. This is why we have environmental Injustice. We have known for years now that climate change disproportionately affects minorities. When we had our winter freeze a couple weeks back the areas in Austin that were without water and power for the longest amount of time, directly correlates to where the power plants are located, where we have known for years that minorities and low-income families live. My environmental Professor, Dr. C, the person who helped contextualize environmental issues for me, died during the winter freeze because he was without water and electricity for too long. students and members of my school have been rallying together to help with any expenses and costs that his family might need covered. But . this is not our job. We should not have to be the ones to move our coins around to help families who have suffered because of Texas lawmakers' negligence.

The power Act has provisions designed to help families who have suffered during the winter storm. This is monetary compensation for people who were negatively affected and impacted during the winter storm. These funds would come from the Texas 10 billion dollar rainy day fund which we have not used for anything. In Texas it has rained and rained and rained and we never touch the fund. during the winter storm, i remember looking out my window and watching it rained and it rained and then it rained again and it rained again. As the saying goes, how many rainy days do we Texans have to go through before we touch this rainy day fund.

80% of likely voters would be in favor of this bill, which should tell you about its urgency and necessity.

Thank you

Betty Pringer

Ironworkers Local 84

Rosenberg, TX

With all due respect. This bill should be approval in order to assist the multitude if families in need of financial assistance due to circumstances beyond their control.

Rubi Hernandez

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Workers Defense Project

Austin, TX

I would really need the help, it has impact my family since i dont work and the only one who works is my husband, he didn't work for almost 3 weeks, he works as a construction worker.

Courtnee Staine

University of Houston

HOUSTON, TX

My name is Courtnee Staine.

I am a student at the University of Houston majoring in Physics and minoring in Mathematics.

I request that the House support the HB 3460, because it will benefit all Texans. Winter storm Uri was the latest climate disaster Texas experienced. Winter storms, power blackouts, and a water crisis are not normal occurrences in Texas, and they should never be again. Many Texans were without water, electricity and food for days because of legislative inaction. In a time where our democracy had to show up, the people of Texas showed up instead.

Supporting HB 3460 is the legislative action 81% of Texans voters, your people, request of you. We have an untouched \$10 billion rainy day fund that remains untouched. HB 3460 creates a disaster relief program, using the money from the rainy day fund, to help those affected by the Winter Storm. Texas has the money for this relief fund. Our people shouldn't have to respond reactively to crisis and trauma. We elect officials to create safeguards that will help us in times of crisis.

Dustin Haltom

MOVE Texas

Jacksonville, TX

I am calling on the House State Affairs Committee to support House Bill 3460, which would provide direct relief to Texans in the aftermath of the winter storm. The disastrous effects that Winter Storm Uri had on communities like mine in Jacksonville are still being felt by our most vulnerable residents, especially in immigrant and low-income households. Small towns in East Texas and elsewhere that lack large amounts of resources are depending on the state to provide assistance to those still suffering from the devastation of the storm.

Every citizen of our state must be protected from extreme weather events like Winter Storm Uri that are becoming more frequent due to climate change. Even though Texans have been denied relief time and time again during past crises, our government has a \$10 billion rainy day fund that could be greatly beneficial for Texans during times like these. HB 3460 would use this fund to send direct payments of \$1,000 to \$2,500 to Texas households in order to assist families who are still recovering from this crisis. These payments would especially help out the many low-income families and communities of color who spent weeks without running water, faced high electric bills, and whose homes were damaged from the storm. I urge our lawmakers to vote "Yes" on HB 3460 and ensure that our most marginalized communities receive the help that they desperately need.

Kristina Samuel

MOVE Texas

College Station, TX

My name is Kristina Samuel and I am a sophomore honors student at Texas A&M University majoring in Biology with a minor in Philosophy. Upon graduating I would like to go to law school for environmental policy, in order to advocate for climate justice. Recently, Winter Storm Uri this past February made me a first hand witness to the disparities that I wish to advocate for in my future career, unfortunately at the expense of the suffering of my fellow Texans.

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Although climate change affects us all, we have known that it hits minority and low income communities the hardest. The winter freeze was a dramatic climate crisis that wreaked havoc on everyone's lives but especially for those living paycheck to paycheck, some have to live with the consequences of it longer than others.

While I was away at college, I felt helpless to the suffering my parents and younger sister had to endure with serious damage to our house due to the storm, having 3 major water pumps break in addition to a massive leak in their water pipe, costing about \$13,000 in total damage. My parents and sister who is a freshmen in high school couldn't live in our house for a month and had to find shelter with my aunt. Most people, including my family, who are trying to put two daughters in college at the moment, don't have this kind of money lying around.

HB 3460, also known as the Power Act, would provide direct financial aid to so many families like mine and serve as a saving grace in the midst of a time that feels like there is always an overlap of some of kind crisis occurring simultaneously. The State's \$10 billion dollar rainy day fund exists for circumstances like now. How much more do people have to endure in order to deserve the assistance they so desperately need? The time is now to vote "yes" for HB 3460 and fight to provide some of our most vulnerable and impacted communities the relief needed to mitigate damages suffered from the winter storm.

Rachel Carneglia

self

AUSTIN, TX

Hello,

I'm writing today to urge you to move forward with HB3460 - the Power Act. During winter storm Uri we were without power for 4 days, and when the power did come back on, our water was shut off by the city because of low pressure. Not only was it incredibly difficult to make do with no power and water, we also couldn't leave to get food and many of our local stores were also closed. Being without power meant virtually everything in our fridge and freezer went bad before we were able to make use of it. After the storm, we had to replace all of the landscaping around our rental house because we are responsible for the yard care and our insurance won't cover this. This was a completely unplanned expense, and the Power Act would be a great support to us.

81% of Texas voters want Texas to tap into the state's \$10 billion rainy day fund to pay for the relief program. This is the perfect opportunity to use the "rainy day fund." Its purpose is for emergency use following disasters, and the goal is to meet the unmet needs of communities impacted by the storm and cover costs not covered by insurance plans or anybody else. HB 3460 is the financial gap filler for a state that was hit by this storm as hard as it ever has been.

Please support HB3460 and help Texans recover!

Linda Mundwiller, Mrs

self - computer drafter

Houston, TX

I had lost wages since I work from home and our power was off for 1-1/2 days

Kamyon Conner

Texas Equal Access Fund

Dallas, TX

Texas Equal Access Fund Supports HB3460. After being hit by winter storm Uri, Texans need financial relief to handle unexpected expenses and lost wages now. Many Texans were unable to work during the storm, while others faced higher living expenses due to food and water shortages and the need to find alternative shelter. Many Texas families face home repair costs due to burst pipes and sagging roofs. Some Texas consumers owe thousands of dollars to their electricity providers, while others have been burdened with medical expenses as a direct result of the storm as well. HB 3460 aims to provide a grant program of direct financial assistance to certain residents of Texas who were affected by the winter disaster of 2021.

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The POWER Act would give one-time cash payments of \$1,000 to \$2,500 per household to Texans most impacted by the Texas winter storm.

80% of likely Texas voters (including 85% of Democrats, 76% of independents, and 81% of Republicans) support a one-time cash payment of \$1,000 to \$2,500 for households impacted by winter storm.

81% of Texas voters want Texas to tap into the state's \$10 billion rainy day fund to pay for the relief program.

This is the perfect opportunity to use the "rainy day fund." Its purpose is for emergency use following disasters, and the goal is to meet the unmet needs of communities impacted by the storm and cover costs not covered by insurance plans or anybody else. HB 3460 is the financial gap filler for a state that was hit by this storm as hard as it ever has been. Texans need and deserve this support.

carmen cavezza, community organizer

Coalition for Environment, Equity and Resilience

missouri city, TX

I work in frontline communities and experienced first had the devastation this storm caused on many residents on the Northeast area. I provided direct assistance of food and water to senior citizens with medical conditions in Lakewood. Families that have a kidney transplant member that were without water for weeks!! Another resident that receive IV medications due to renal failure end up in the hospital for lack of sanitation. I know so many people that have experience tremendous damage in their houses, and are suffering of mental health, without resources to address it.

I urged you to pass this much needed help that will relieve some suffering on our already devastating communities of color.

Allison Gower

Self - Business Owner

Houston, TX

On February 15th my home lost power and my family spent three days keeping warm as best we could with a gas fireplace and extra layers of clothing. Luckily we had plenty of sleeping bags and blankets and sweaters and could all sleep in front of our gas fireplace so that the below 30 degree temperature in our house was not life threatening. By the end of the third day we had two pipes burst and experienced significant water damage in several areas. Again though, luckily I knew how to turn the water off at the main near the street and was able to do so before our entire house was damaged. We were without water for a week and half, waiting for a plumber to be able to service us and for the needed parts. As I write this testimony almost TWO months after the storm, we have just now been able to get the construction crews in to repair the two bathrooms and several living areas that were damaged. We have been living with open ceilings, musty smells, and dusty living areas since mid February. My family has means and although the deductible for this repair will be significant and will cause a dent in our savings, we are able to afford a repair. I know that most in Harris County and greater Houston are not so lucky. The State must provide funding relief for the thousands of families in Texas that do not have an extra \$10,000 available to pay for insurance deductibles or totally out of pocket repairs. Repairs for burst pipes and water damage are very expensive and as a stand alone event could possibly be accommodated, but following damages already incurred by Harvey and other storms, are devastating. Texans are being nudged into poverty and disfunction due to bad planning at the State government level and the State must take responsibility and provide aid.

Evie Proctor

MOVE Texas

Houston, TX

My name is Evie Proctor, and I am a resident of Houston and a fellow in the Civic Leadership Program at MOVE Texas. I strongly urge the House State Affairs Committee to vote yes on HB 3460, the Power Act, as it will send much-needed relief to people all across Texas that were severely affected by Winter Storm Uri, our state's most recent climate disaster that was entirely preventable had our state officials been prepared and winterized and regulated the eclectic grid in Texas.

Because officials have neglected to act or even acknowledge our climate crisis and the effects it has on the most vulnerable

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communities in our state, nearly 200 lives were lost in the freeze, with many, many more Texans left with property damage and sky-high electric bills that they can't afford. This freeze was not their fault, and the Texas Legislature needs to act immediately to assure that those most in need can receive this necessary financial assistance to get back on their feet.

The freeze was nearly two months ago, yet there are still communities that are without clean water, or who have been unable to pay for repairs to the damage done to their pipes and their homes. A friend of mine's family is currently living in a motel because their ceiling collapsed from burst pipes during the freeze. They can't afford to pay for the repairs, and their insurance company is refusing to help. The Power Act will help them immensely in this time of need, just like it will for thousands of other Texans. Please support and vote yes for HB 3460, the Power Act, so our neighbors in need can finally receive the relief they deserve. This bill has received bipartisan support, and it is past time for the state to open its \$10 billion rainy day fund to help those affected by this deadly crisis. Thank you.

Alan de Leon

Self

Houston, TX

It was nearly 40 degrees within my home during the winter storm. My mother who suffers from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease has had to get extra pharmaceutical care to treat pain during and since the event. Given that my mom is a minimum wage earner and my lone sibling is in school, losing out on a full week and a half's wages meant I've had to assume a bigger financial burden, and only because I was lucky to have some savings that it wasn't too harsh. But our garden was completely frozen over, creating roughly about \$1200 in damages. My neighbors all suffered busted pipes; the only reason why ours didn't burst was perhaps because we covered them using cut up noodle foam we typically used on the rare occasion would go to a public pool. In short, this storm was devastating both physically and financially. We support HB 3460 because it would help fill in the financial gaps that were created by this storm, it would help bring some justice to some of us who suffered more than we had to because of the ill-preparedness and incompetence of utility and grid leadership.

Anna Berke

Self. Home mother

Little Elm, TX

The rotating power outages kept causing my HVAC wire connections to melt/short out. If we cannot get help to pay for a working HVAC system. We are at risk of death. Especially for me. Bad heart with only pacemaker helping. Serious anxiety disorder. Stroke survivor and loving mom. My son has asthma and when that sweltering heat gets high. He struggles to breath. Have no idea how to protect my family after insurance denied claim.

James Panetti

Self, owner of Panetti Tech Insights

Carrollton, TX

I was thankfully not affected by the storm. Given how many countless Texans were severely impacted, I am more than happy to see my tax dollars going to help them. We are a rich state full of amazing people -- we can afford it and must support our neighbors during this time of critical need.

Maynor Alvarez

Workers Defense Action

Houston, TX

my family has been very affected by the winter storm here in Houston, we already had many financial problems with the closing due to the pandemic and this storm complicated our situation my family's budget is having a bad time with jobs that are not there stable and then with the winter storm we stopped working for two weeks the payments came at the end of the month without any

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discount we called the companies that provide service and they told us that they could not make discounts because it was not their problem the lack of services All the food in the fridge was spoiled, we had no electricity for 5 days, we had no water for 3 weeks. Going through an ice storm without heating has been the worst we have experienced my parents who are of legal age felt poor health my pets also almost died the apartment cooled in such a way that we could not heat ourselves even with all the blankets we had. been very difficult

Elsa Mina

Workers defense actions

Houston, TX

Please we need you to help us recover from this economic situation that this winter storm has brought to our family

Victoria Falcon

MOVE Texas

Denton, TX

During the winter storm, my power was on and off for hours at a time. Not only did I not have access to clean water after the boil water notices, it turned out I didn't have great service and my internet was out for the duration of the storm. I live alone and don't drive, but I was fortunate enough to get my partner to stay with me when we realized things were going to get worse before they got better regarding the power outages. Having to ask my partner to drive on ice even if just a few miles away from me was something I didn't want to do, but had to ask for so I wouldn't be stuck without transportation or communication in case I needed food, water, or alternative shelter. It was stressful, but the worst part about this experience was knowing that I had far better circumstances than many Texans. In the days that followed, and when my internet came back on, I joined along with other MOVE Texas staff to textbank our GOTV universe and connect them to resources for water, food, shelter, and other options for mutual aid in their area. So many everyday Texans who had the privilege of electricity, teamed up with us to reach out and we ran through the lists of people in the cities we work in. As much as I want this to be a beautiful sentiment, the need for this much public organizing was the result of abandonment from our state government to heed, prepare, and respond to the storm. We heard countless stories and pleas for help from people. I offered up tons of resources to those in big cities who had great local efforts to help its citizens. The most heartbreaking connections I made were with people not in those big cities, in outskirts, in rural areas, impoverished towns, where it would take miles and maybe even hours out of the way to get what they needed. These communities have always been severely underserved and the storm exacerbated the neglect on these communities - disproportionately working class and Black and brown communities. Our state officials did not come through for us, we had to show up for each other, and at the end of the day, there was some people we couldn't help. By passing The POWER Act, you can help Texans impacted by lost wages, sky high bills, and broken homes, recover from the mess your colleagues made. This is a bipartisan, decent act, and the least we can do as we mourn the 200 and counting Texans who died from something we could have prevented. Committee members, please vote yes on House Bill 3460 and let us recover from this.

Linda Hays

Self/retired

Humble, TX

I had pipe burst

Rebecca Bateman

Self, staff director

Dallas, TX

After the complete mess you legislators made of our state in February, you owe it to your constituents to be accountable and make reparations. Passing this bill would be a good start. People have SUFFERED. Over 100 people DIED. I myself lost power for a week, and water for two weeks. It got down to the 40s INSIDE MY HOUSE. And then I was hit with an electric bill THREE

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TIMES what it should've been. STEP UP AND PASS THIS BILL.

Lisa Stone

self: educator

Houston, TX

I'm writing as a member of Congregation Beth Israel, RAC-TX and TMO, The Metropolitan Organization, in Houston.

I join all those asking you to support HB 3460, to provide essential aid to Texans.

We all know how what a disaster the winter storm created for so many Texans--because those we trust with our safety and welfare had not done their job.

Several of our elderly neighbors were in serious danger; one died during the black out. Nothing can compensate for that family's loss, but money will help many who need to pay for repairs.

We are calling for a fund amounting to \$2 billion, to have a chance to address the full need among the hardest-hit residents.

Charlotte Pace

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I was greatly affected by the storm with a serious regression in heart condition leading to ongoing chest pains. I am still going to the cardiologist for treatment and diagnosis. My dog also suffered very serious health consequences with the onset of glaucoma due to eye injury. This has been very costly but devastatingly, she will now lose sight in both her eyes.

The monetary affect of losing a week's business wages due to having to close with no electricity not only cost me but the health affects we are still experiencing today have cost me much time and money. Not only that but both my electric and gas bills have gone up.

Therefore, I urge you to pass the Power Act immediately.

Onnesha Williams

Self

Hutto, TX

It is the responsibility of the state to help Texans recover from this natural disaster that was exacerbated by the lack of adequate government oversight in ensuring our power grid was weatherized. I have been personally impacted as a single parent by using monthly expenses on unforeseen emergency needs like paying for hotel stays for several nights and also paying a premium for the stay and for food. This help would cover the overages I had to incur while still maintaining monthly living expenses. This was hard on my family and many others. Please do the right thing.

Yolanda Vela

Self

McAllen, TX

Had spent money on gas , generator

Jeremy Fleming

MOVE Texas

Dallas, TX

Hello, my name is Jeremy Fleming. I'm a student living in Dallas and a fellow with MOVE Texas.

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The February winter storms devastated most of us Texans. Millions went without power, homes were destroyed, and nearly 200 people died. Even though this event was about 2 months ago, many Texans still haven't recovered. Some of my friends have still not bounced back to pre-freeze stability. They are still living in broken homes and are trying to pay for repairs out of pocket. My coworkers have told stories of how their neighbors or family friends froze to death in their own homes. The freeze was 2 months ago, and many average Texans have still not recovered.

This is why I am speaking today, to advocate for HB3460, the Power Act. It would provide up to 2,500 dollars for the people and families who need it most, whether it would be to repair their homes, pay their medical bills, or get them back on their feet. The act would be funded through Texas' 10 billion dollar rainy day fund. Has there been a rainier day than this?

All Texans would agree that we need to band together in times of crisis. We have been, or know someone who has been directly impacted by the February freeze. It was not the Texan people's fault, but the fault of our outdated infrastructure run by our government. As such, it's the responsibility of our government to help Texans who were hurt by this negligence. The Power Act offers a bipartisan solution, one that will help Texans all across the state. It would relieve the wound left by the storm and push us towards the future. We want legislators that fight for bills like this, bills that Texan's across the aisle know are necessary to keep us stable.

Thank you.

Nancy Edwards, Ms.

self retired

Houston, TX

I very much support the creation of a grant program to help people whose houses or furnishings were damaged by the recent cold weather. I suppose this bill even though my house was not damaged.

Regina Bugarin

self

denton, TX

The winter storm in February 2021 put my household in an uneasy financial situation that we and our neighbors are still recovering from. The storm caused us to miss a week of work which means a whole week without income. In addition to that, we were forced to throw out all refrigerated and frozen foods that we had to replenish once the power came back on. I had to pay for a hotel room for my mother for four nights in a row due to the power and water outages across Fort Worth. Many of my community members took it upon themselves to sacrifice their own recourses to ensure everyone was safe and comfortable throughout the storm. Myself and my neighbors need assistance from the government to help pay back what was lost and pull ourselves out from the financial setback caused by the storm. Please vote "YES" for HB 3460.

Saliha Garcia

Move Texas

Laredo, TX

My name is Saliha Garcia and I am currently a senior studying at Texas A&M International University studying Psychology and minoring in Sociology. After graduation I plan on pursuing a J.D./Ph.d and teach at the collegiate level. During the winter storm that occurred in February I was able to see the prevalence of racial disparities that lack of environmental justice has caused upon the people of Texas.

Many of my classmates spent the whole week having to travel to my University in order to be able to get access to food and water. Many of us suffered power outages and were left in the dark in regards to when or how we would be able to get our power or water back. Seeing how people's homes were ruined, pipes were bursting, and heating systems were completely shut only made the situation even more stressful than what it should have been. The cost to fixing these things is not cheap and many are still suffering from the damage Winter Storm Uri left behind.

A plan needs to be present and people need to be helped during these tough times. HB 3460 creates a disaster relief plan that will

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provide between 1,000 to 2,500 dollars in direct financial assistance to those that were impacted by this winter storm. I sit here today and urge you to support HB 3460 and fight to provide to those that have been impacted by the damage that this storm has caused.

Natalie Clifford
Self, Teacher
San Antonio, TX

I am an educator who supports immigrant youth and their families on a daily basis. These communities have been systematically excluded from federal relief efforts during the pandemic due to eligibility restrictions regarding citizenship. Therefore, I applaud and support the proposal of direct financial assistance to Texans impacted by winter storm Uri, because this recognizes the contributions and inherent value of all workers and community members across our state.

Throughout the past year of the pandemic, I have witnessed the undue hardship caused by loss of wages, resulting in loss of food, fear of eviction, and terrible physical, economic, and mental suffering. This suffering was exacerbated during the winter storm, with major damage wrought on homes, pipes, property, and most importantly, people. Children and families I personally know were agonizing as they tried to survive the subfreezing temperatures while simultaneously preoccupied with how they were going to make up for lost hours working when the entire state was essentially shut down due to the crisis.

The creation of a grant designated to provide crucial financial assistance to Texans most impacted by the devastating extreme climate events of February is the perfect use of the rainy day fund. As a resident of Texas, I urge you to continue to move this bill forward to bring swift and necessary relief to so many families struggling to get back on their feet economically. It is the moral, just, and humane thing to do.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing about the progress of this crucial bill.

Madisen Riley
Self, Freelance Writer
Pflugerville, TX

This bill must pass for Texans who were let down so profoundly by their state officials. Grants to provide financial compensation for those most effected by the storm are a no-brainer. Using money from the rainy day fund for these grants is wildly popular with Texans. For so many effected by the storm, \$2500 is just the tip of the iceberg in damages faced. We owe it to taxpayers to reimburse them for services Texas failed to provide.

GERMAN IBANEZ
Ibanez COUNSULTING
Houston, TX

Please support this bill. Energy Efficiency and weatherizing homes is a great way to reduce demand on the power grid. This is a win win. It reduces the power and heating bills of the home owners and helps to manage the ERCOT power grid and may reduce gas consumption if they have gas heating.

Regards

German Ibanez

Toni Foster
Self
Rowlett, TX

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Due to the storm, my electricity bill increased 300%, leaving me with unexpected expenses and financial hardship. I am one of many affected by the flex rate price gouging by energy companies in Texas taking advantage of those affected by the storms.

Briella Vest

Self, Research Profesional

Austin, TX

During the winter storm I was without power and water for days and was unable to work from home. Due to this, I lost a weeks worth of wages that impacted my ability to pay rent. HB 3460 by Hernandez would allow me to make up my lost wages and help restore my financial stability.

Sissi Yado

Self

Austin, TX

In the aftermath of Winter Storm Uri, my family in the Rio Grande Valley took on costly home repairs including replacing their roof and pipes. These repairs were nowhere in the budget and it cost extreme sacrifices such as cutting back on food, paying utility bills late, going by without internet. They sold belongings and in this most extreme scenario they even contemplated how they were going to pay for medicines. My family is still putting the pieces back together and taking on costly ongoing repairs. More broadly, Texans are still reeling from the effects of the Winter Storm. Relief can't wait, please don't delay and pass the Power Act and support relief and recovery for Texas families around the state.

Amber Mills

self

Austin, TX

My name is Amber Mills and I am a resident of Austin, District 51. I had only recently moved to Austin when the winter disaster occurred. I live alone and I don't have friends or family who live close and with the roads immediately freezing early I had no option to leave. Although I was without power for 3 days, I was one of the lucky ones who had enough food and did not have any pipes freeze. Many Texans were not as fortunate. Many Texans were forced to take off from work without being compensated. Many Texans were left needing expensive house repairs with no form of relief or another place to stay. Many Texans lost their lives or suffered from other health consequences of the freezing weather.

The Power Act cannot undo what was done, but it is a chance to offer some good for constituents. Texas has the money. The rainy day fund was designed for emergencies such as the winter storm. This is not a partisan issue, it is a bill that would benefit hurting Texans across party lines. I am urging the committee members to pass HB 3460 and to encourage all other House members to vote yes as well. Do the right thing and help those who are in need. Thank you.

Debra Ponce

SA Stands

San Antonio, TX

There was so much loss in our San Antonio. Water pipes busting, spoiled food and not working for a whole week has been a burden to most of us. This is not something what we suffered due to lack of preparation or care, it happened suddenly and without mercy. There are so many that will not be able to benefit from FEMA and so this will be what is needed to recover. Please vote yes.

Amanda Williams

Lilith Fund & Self

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Austin, TX

My name is Amanda Beatriz Williams and I am writing on behalf of myself and Lilith Fund in strong support of HB 3460.

After being hit by winter storm Uri, Texans need financial relief to handle unexpected expenses and lost wages. Please vote YES on HB 3460.

Cristal Benitez-Lopez

Self - Legal Manager/Organizer

Dallas, TX

During the winter disaster of 2021 my home was without power for almost 3 days. I lost hundreds of dollars in groceries. The power was out for several blocks around me, so I had no access to food. I was surviving off of the few non-perishables that I have. My car is not equipped to drive in those conditions. The electricity bill for this period was expensive even though I was without power. It was a difficult time and I know I was one of the luckier ones. There are many people still living with the aftermath of the storm.

FRANCIS Netscher

Self

Austin, TX

In the winter storm, I had to evacuate my home. I went to my elderly, single mother, and exposed her to covid. Money would help us cover the costs that put on us

Armando Salazar

self

San Antonio, TX

I would benefit greatly from financial assistance and so would a lot of people in my community too

Marla Lopez

Self

Jersey Village, TX

The year is 2021 but in March, it felt like 1494 - we had no reliable power or clean water for not one BUT MANY DAYS. For some a week. For others, weeks or months. The year is 2021, and while human beings were freezing in their homes or suffocating trying to keep warm, our decision makers were out in Cancun or out of state or in their warm homes, on Twitter and social media playing the blame game. This is a disaster that our state officials and leaders are responsible for, and it will stay in our collective minds for the rest of our lives. We will remember the suffering, and the distrust and lack of confidence in our democratic process - one that we so proudly tout across the world - will diminish as will the prosperity of this state. As the people of Texas had to endure and suffer, so does the state need to respond and repay those who suffered most. Y'all must repay and repair the damage and the cost that had unequally been left on our communities, regardless of whether they voted for you in the past or in the future, regardless of whether they are citizens or not, because human lives should not have been lost to this level of incompetency in the 21st century. Legislators are supposed to decide on bills that will support the prosperity and safety of the people PERIOD. Not their donors, not their voters, but of all people. Please do right by those that've suffered and lost the most because powerful officials decided to do the least for the most monetary gain possible. Please vote to pass this bill to restore at least some confidence and provide relief to our most impacted. Thank you.

Lacy Hulén

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self

denton, TX

The winter storm made my quality of life very low. I was freezing and without heat and electricity.