

PUBLIC COMMENTS

SB 2

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

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Hearing Date: May 7, 2021 12:00 PM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

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Jackie De Hon

Self, Retired College Teacher and Freelance Writer

CANYON LAKE, TX

Letter to Texas Legislators

Re: Current Energy bills

TEXAS WATER AND ENERGY UTILITIES BELONG TO TEXANS!

By Cheryl Gilpin, Former Edwards Aquifer Authority Director, B.S. Aquatic Science M.S. Geoscience/Oceanography, and Jackie De Hon, Ph.D.

We are opposed to SB 2142, SB2 and SB3, their actions do not reverse harmful PUC emergency pricing order or harmful excessive energy caps in the state energy laws cited in the order, or improve reliability and affordability or emergency preparedness of essential utility services for Texans as implied by their titles and intentions. Many amendments were approved with actions that are extremely harmful and poorly evaluated with regard to the health and safety and financial interest of the people of Texas our businesses and our local and state governments.

The Texas Legislature needs to revise past legislatures' legal framework for our public utility services for both water and electricity. It is not adequate to merely tweak the existing system. This is an unfair, unjust and destructive and deadly misguided system. Texas energy law legal framework, is known as "Texas Energy Only Market" and it is now supporting a system of deregulated Wall Street hedge fund investor market suppliers to our public power and water utilities in Texas. These suppliers now have incentives and pathways to manipulate the peaking of energy supply costs by power outages to maximize profit at the expense of Texans' lives. Meanwhile they denied this stating their actions were not to manipulate the market but to provide reliability. The impact was still a manipulation to their advantage. This caused severe financial harms to the people and businesses of Texas. Also they are taking over some utilities that used to be publicly owned and managed by and for the people.

We recently experienced harmful impacts our legislators created when they ignored the public good and enabled extreme pricing of energy-supply costs and profits during a severe winter storm with our state energy grid managed by the Energy Reliability Council of Texas. Legislators' energy bills SB 2and SB3 say they actually ignore harmful impacts to the people. the actions they include were poorly evaluated for safety and may prove dangerous and costly for the people and the resources of Texas. Whether that was their intention or not, the "market-only-type- systems" of supplying utilities must be reconsidered now; it was proven to cause epic harms to the people of Texas during that winter storm. Now Texas legislators are misleading Texans by "little fixes" which do not correct the underlying problematic legal framework and set us up for much severe and frequent damage this summer and beyond.

Texas utilities are essential services for the benefit of all Texans, They are essential to all our lives and businesses – Texas energy laws over our utility services and supplies should not have top priorities on maximizing profits for their supp

Hearing Date: May 6, 2021 8:00 AM

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Laura Good

Self

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Hico, TX

Keep Texas's power grid independent. Hold those in charge responsible for mistakes. Winterize! Severely cold weather in Texas is not unheard of. I've personally lived through at least 5 terrible Texas winters. Sun & wind are NOT as reliable as clean natural gas, which Texas has plenty of. Stay energy independent! No reason for the skyrocketing price change during the storm. No reason for rolling blackouts like California, we're better than that. Step up and get the job done correctly!

Mark Johnson

Self, Self Employed Drilling Supervisor

Meridian, TX

As a resident affected by the power outages from the most recent winter storm, I strongly support SN 2 and it is way past time to hold intermittent power generators accountable for providing customers reliable power source at all times.

Cheryl Gilpin, Former Edwards Aquifer Authority Director

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New Braunfels, TX

Opposed to SB 2

Actions do the opposite of the titles and intents and these bills lack proper assessment of physical harms to Texans business and all levels of financial interest from utility consumers to cities and the state which are more broad and systemic and last longer than the emergency

Oppose to shifting of approval Authority and pricing cap setting away from legislators the public can remain able to hold accountable.

I support recommendations by Robin Schneider Texas Campaign for the Environment

Lendon Gilpin, Former Asst. Director

former assistant director Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center at Texas State University(over 20 yrs)

New Braunfels, TX

I oppose this bill because its actions do not do what its title and intents say and because the legislators should not shift any of its emergency energy pricing or price cap setting authority over to ERCOT or the PUC.

Voluntary or involuntary outages for "load shedding" should be replaced with decreasing demand by effective conservation technologies and standards of conservation to support planned fair and safe normal and emergency mandatory and tiered prioritized conservation measures for utility users. In power utilities during Storm Uri Power outages led to outages in sewer and water supply services even if they did have power for pumps they were not winterized either. Anytime Power outages occur in the future they will also cause or worsen water outages in already stressed water utilities and vice versa and extreme pricing of supplies to both. That would lead to over pumping of the Edwards Aquifer to maximize profits because the legislated critical period aquifer rules were never properly applied and thus are not effective and actually cause most of the pumping for groundwater marketing to occur during times of critical period when market value is highest. One massive aquifer-damaging event could destroy our State's biggest water supply for generations! We would then lose our food and power production as well! We may not have to wait for a climate crisis - that could happen this summer by the deregulation and manipulated forced outages for maximizing energy supply profits. Also this summer NOAA predicts severe and long lasting extremes in heat and drought conditions.

Melba Mitchell

Self

Printed on: May 19, 2021 2:15 PM

Houston, TX

Yes

Melba Mitchell

Self

Houston, TX

Yes

Melba Mitchell

Self

Houston, TX

Yes

Melba Mitchell

Self

Houston, TX

Yes

Hosnaara Khan, Ccht

Personal

Sugarland, TX

Holiday