

PUBLIC COMMENTS

SB 3

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

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

Monnita Brasher

self

WAXAHACHIE, TX

Please hold wind and solar resources accountable!! The ERCOT power grid should be required to purchase ancillary services to manage load variability.

Zenobia Joseph, U.S. Citizen

Self

Austin, TX

1. SB 3 Position: On (Neutral).
2. Floor Amendment Recommendation: Add transportation to Power Outage Alert content.
 - a. Filed Bill, Lines 7-9 (p. 3): “Sec. 411.306. CONTENT OF POWER OUTAGE ALERT. The power outage alert must include a statement that electricity customers may experience a power outage.”
 - b. Amend Sec. 411.306: After “power outage,” add [and may need transportation to evacuate.]
 - c. New Sec. 411.306 Proposed Language: The power outage alert must include a statement that electricity customers may experience a power outage and may need transportation to evacuate.
3. Justification: During Winter Storm Uri and other natural disasters (e.g., Hurricane Ike, Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Katrina), transit-dependent riders—minorities, in particular—were stranded. A power outage alert stating the need for transportation to evacuate may have saved lives by encouraging residents to make evacuation arrangements. My Floor Amendment text, thus, strengthens SB 3.
 - a. Anecdote: A Black female senior citizen living in Northeast Austin—Parmer Lane/FM 734 near Samsung in a transit desert—called KAZI 88.7FM after weathering Winter Storm Uri. KAZI community radio station has reached African-Americans over 38 years. The caller stated being unable to get water once Austin Energy restored power. Despite there being free bottled water approximately 3 miles away at Walnut Creek Metropolitan Park, she had no way to get to the site. There was no advance notice in Austin stating the potential severity of the winter storm. Instead, Mayor Steve Adler informed residents that the water supply levels were okay. During the storm, radio announcers informed listeners of the “rolling blackout” misnomer. Parmer Lane-area, however, had three nights with no lights. A water boil notice then followed. Later, Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority used MetroAccess vehicles to deliver food to some transit-dependent senior citizens which illustrates the need to do more to help our most vulnerable Texans, including the homeless, prepare for a severe power outage.
 - b. Sec. 411.308. LIMITATION ON PARTICIPATION BY TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. SB 3 contains language specific to compliance with federal law (e.g., “federal highway funding”).
Note: Texas Department of Transportation owns the right-of-way north of US 183, including Parmer Lane (e.g., Samsung to Apple, 3 HEBS, and Harris Branch near Applied Materials).

Thanks for your time and consideration.~zsj

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Susan Lippman, Ms.

Individual

Austin, TX

I submitted a comment yesterday containing both my support and my concerns for SB 3, especially my concern that Section 13 would create an unfair market burden on renewables, and would best be deleted.

I would like to add one more consideration:

I ask you to also support some increased demand response and energy efficiency requirements to make SB 3 a stronger solution to preventing future dangerous grid failure in the event of weather extremes, whether they may be extreme heat or extreme cold. I urge you to add the provisions of HB 4556/SB 243 as an amendment to SB 3, in order to raise the demand response and energy efficiency goals (currently at only 0.4 percent of average summer and winter peak demand) to 1.0 percent of peak demand.

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

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Steven Harr, Attorney

Self

Dallas, TX

I support SB 3 as written. It is high time for intermittent generators in Texas to be held accountable when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine. Thank you

Marc Myers

Old Sunsown Ranch in Bosque County

Dallas, TX

I support SB 3 as currently drafted. The wind energy industry must be held accountable. Thanks Marc

Douglas Kieta

Self

Cranfills Gap, TX

I support this bill. Further, I think it should include a requirement that each wind and solar company be required to escrow adequate funds to remove its equipment and foundations at the end of its service life. This requirement would insure that land is returned to its initial state even if the facility owner goes bankrupt or just leaves when the tax abatements expire.

Joyce McDowell

Self

Clifton, TX

I am in full support of SB 3 for requirement of intermittent generation resources in the ERGOT power region to purchase ancillary services and replacement power sufficient to manage net load variability. After the last major ice/snow with multiple outages for several hours to days, this attention to this area is desperately needed. Thank you for your dedication to supporting Texas residents! ????

James Cornelius

self-Real Estate Developer

Dallas, TX

I support this Bill's efforts to make ALL sources of power more reliable. All sources should be held to the same standard of reliability.

Trudy Sheffield, Realtor

Self. Realtor

Clifton, TX

I support as written.

Eric Vanderbeck

Self

Cranfills Gap, TX

I support SB- 3 in its entirety as written.
It is important to hold the entities accountable.

Laura Good

Self

Hico, TX

Keep Texas's power grid independent. It is time for intermittent generators in Texas to be held accountable when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine. We need to use clean natural gas and stay energy independent. Be prepared! No excuses! Texas has had multiple severe winters in the past 55 years that I have personally lived through. Hold those in charge responsible.

Rodney Schoen

Self Farmer/Rancher

Blanket, TX

I support HB3 as it is written and it is time to hold intermittent generators in Texas accountable when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine.

Kimberley Smith, Mrs.

self

Clifton, TX

It was made clear with the last disastrous storm that Texas' Wind Power was not up to the demand and the associated costs that were passed on to the residents were abhorrent. I am in FULL SUPPORT of this bill and ask that it be passed without waiver! Further, the use of wind turbines is unreliable and a threat to the environment. IT IS NOT GREEN ENERGY. Thank you for your consideration and support. Kimberley Smith, resident of Texas.

Lester Bowers, Mr.

Self

Clifton, TX

I fully support this bill. It is way past time for those responsible for providing reliable power to Texans to be held accountable. This issue has been kicked down the road for decades and has been detrimental to Texans. Solar and wind ARE NOT the solution to our power needs and there needs to be affordable, reliable Plan B's.

John Cameron

Self

Iredell, TX

I support SB 3 as written and it is time for intermittent generators in Texas to be held accountable when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine.

Rhonda Dickey

Self : Rancher

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Gatesville, TX

I support Bill SB 3. The public should not incur added cost for solar or wind unreliability.

Saranne and Walter Penberthy

Self

Cliftgon, TX

We are in support of SB3 as it is now written. Thank you.

Stephanie Fanning

Myself

Clifton, TX

I would urge our legislators to pass the bill, as written, as a commonsense accountability measure and necessary piece in preventing further energy crises in Texas. This addresses the intermittent and thus, unreliable, generation of wind and solar energy.

Ron Bonge

Self

clifton, TX

I support this as written.

Charla Bean

Self- retired teacher- current farmer/rancher

Blanket, TX

I fully support SB3 as written. As a rural farmer/rancher drastically impacted by the severe storm in February, I feel it is time for intermittent generators in Texas to be held accountable when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine. The problems we dealt with from the loss of power were compounded by the fact that we are constantly dealing with the negative impacts of living in the footprint of a wind farm. It is time they pay for the reserve power needed to back them up when they can't operate.

Again, I fully support SB3 as written.

Thank you for supporting Texans and their livelihoods with this bill.

Rick Williams

Self - Rancher

Copperas Cove, TX

As a Texas resident, I support SB 3 as it is written and strongly feel that it is time for intermittent generators in Texas to be held accountable when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine.

Mike Irvin

Self

Clifton, TX

I am highly in favor of SB3 and holding wind and solar power companies responsible for providing reliable , uninterrupted power

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to Texas' power grid.

Scott Walters

self

Hamilton, TX

I support and request that you support SB 3 as it is written. This bill will improve the reliability of our grid by holding intermittent generators of electricity accountable when the resources they require for generation (wind and sun) are not available. Thank you for giving serious consideration to this bill that will benefit the citizens of Texas.

Judy Grant

Self - Self-employed grant writer

Evant, TX

I support this bill as written that makes wind and solar energy accountable. For years, we have heard wind and solar energy proponents' claims that they have a solution to power needs, dismantled a reliable system, watched our landscapes destroyed by these mammoth turbines in the name of "green energy" only to be left in the freezing cold this past February when they failed miserably. This heavily subsidized industry needs to be held accountable for the loss of property, security and, most of all, loss of lives caused by this broken system. The game is over - the carbon footprint expended to erect wind turbines greatly exceeds any return on investment and turbine 'graveyards' are growing daily. When we needed them to make good on all they said they could do, they couldn't. Please hold the intermittent generators accountable for failing the State of Texas and all who live here.

William Freeman, Retired

Self

Evant, TX

Delete intermittent generators to read All generators

Owen Bean

Self- farmer/rancher

Blanket, TX

I fully support SB 3 as written. I feel it is time for intermittent generators in Texas to be held accountable when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine. I am still repairing plumbing for watering facilities across the ranch that were broken during the winter storm- not due to frigid temperatures- but due to loss of power used to keep them winterized. These losses add frustration to the daily negative impacts we deal with as a wind farm was installed surrounding my ranch on three sides.

Cassandra Walters

self/retired teacher

Hamilton, TX

I support SB 3 and urge you to do the same. Wind and Solar Farms should be held accountable for energy production during weather emergencies and power outages. It is not right for the wind and solar companies to take taxpayer money through government subsidies and not be held responsible for the production of energy during emergency weather situations.

Douglas Reid, Dr.

Self

Kingwood, TX

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This bill is a true "no brainer" YES.

I would add that I would prefer the elimination of all tax payer subsidies for intermittent electricity generation.

Lacricia Ryan

Wharton County Resident, Property Owner, Wife, Mother, Daughter and Friend.

El Campo, TX

I am in full support of this bill *AS WRITTEN*. What happened in Texas could have easily been prevented. Texas deserves more! Renewables have proven that when needed most they can not support our state. The reality of it is- The wind does not always blow and the sun does not always shine. Our US government already spends billions on renewables, there is no reason for Texas to add on more. Please visit Wharton County and you will see the damage solar is personally doing. This year alone we are losing 8000 acres of prime farm land (used for rice, cotton and corn in the past) now covered in glass. All for something that we have seen is not sustainable. All forms of energy should be prepared to continue in all types of weather conditions, especially in extreme cold and extreme heat. Texans deserve the comfort of knowing what no matter what season, time or day, historic events, etc- their electricity will continue to run at sustainable constant rate.

Jack Ryan

Texas Resident and Homeowner

El Campo, TX

I support this bill AS WRITTEN.

Kimberly McCullough

Myself

Hamilton, TX

As a cow/calf rancher in Hamilton, I will never forget the 8.1 days of below freezing temps when the electricity failed and caused so much death and suffering.

I support SB 3 as written.

Isha Rogers Santamaria

Self

El Paso, TX

Support as written.

Michael Hinnenkamp

Self

Hamilton, TX

I support this bill as written.

Dennis Konopatzke

Self

Dallas, TX

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Support

Floyd McGilvray

Self

Hamilton, TX

I support SB3 as written as it is time for intermittent generators in Texas to be held accountable when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine. Also, I believe the only "green" in these energy sources is the dollars that are funneled into the pockets of crony capitalists and foreign backed enterprises.

Mark Carothers

Self Cattle Rancher

Gatesville, TX

I support SB 3 as written

Clint Van Trease

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please pass this. Wind and solar is not the answer in Texas.

Melody Cobb

Self-sales

El Campo, TX

More needs to be done in protecting citizens when it comes to emergency electricity and holding people accountable in response to emergencies and power outages. I truly hope this passes. Texas lead the way.

Dana Carpenter

self / math teacher

Rowlett, TX

I support SB 3 as written. These sources of energy are not reliable and are way too costly.

Melissa Zuehlke, Ms

Myself

Clifton, TX

This is so important to pass. Please do so. They have to be accountable.

Wendi Taylor

Self- Manager

Clifton, TX

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I support SB 3 as written and that it is time for intermittent generators in Texas to be held accountable when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine.

Joyce McGilvray, Mrs.

Self

Hamilton, TX

It's time to put a stop to these unreliable green solutions that use more energy to produce than they can ever produce when installed.

Wandad Senn

self - retired

Clifton, TX

We support SB3 as written and it is time for intermittent generators in TX to be held accountable ALL the time regardless of weather (including wind, sun, heat and cold).

Regards,
Wanda Senn

Barbara Holt

self

Clifton, TX

hold wind and solar resources accountable for their intermittent nature. SB 3 passed the Senate and will have a public hearing before the House State Affairs Committee this Thursday, May 6th. There are many good things in SB 3 with regard to weatherizing TX electric generators and gas well heads. The language we really like is on page 16 which states "The commission shall require intermittent generation resources in the ERCOT power region to purchase ancillary services and replacement power sufficient to manage net load variability."

Mario DiLeo, Mr.

Self

Valley Mills, TX

Don't want the power breakdown that happened this past winter to happen again. It caused us a lot of misery and it was disgraceful for all Texans.

Cindy Pierce, Mrs

Self

Clifton, TX

As a small landowner I would encourage our state to demand management of these solar and wind turbines for their entire life and not allow our land to be laid to waste by equipment failures and trashed in our state

Travis Cobb

Self, accounting

El Campo, TX

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I fully support this bill AS WRITTEN.. Texans deserve reliable electric sources which can withstand extreme weather conditions such as historic cold and historic heat. All forms of energy should be equipped to withstand weather such as this, therefore it should not be a worry for Texans as to whether our legislatives choice of electricity will withstand demand. From our resent Historic cold weather we have clearly seen that wind and solar does not provide reliable energy. This should not be a shock as we already know the wind does not always blow nor does the sun always shine. US residents have already spent & continue to spend billions to help the renewable industry off the ground. Texans do not need to support this form of energy which was proven to not to be reliable, either directly nor indirectly.

Donna Betts

Save our Heritage 84

Georgetown, TX

We strongly support SB 3 as written. It is time for intermittent generators in Texas to be held accountable when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine. Wind power does more damage that it does good, in our opinion and did you know that a turbine not only is noisy and ugly, but when its contract is over, it becomes nothing more than a crippled reminder of bad choices.

Carol Lewis

Self

Meridian, TX

I support SB 3 as written . It is time for intermittent generators in Texas to be held accountable

Margaret Ogden-Howe

Reverend

Georgetown, TX

I strongly oppose penalizing renewable energy sources in order to subsidize oil and gas companies in the event of a weather emergency. The oil and gas companies were not managed properly to prepare for the dire weather emergency of the February freeze. They are responsible for loss of life, limbs, property, and health of Teans. Penalizing alternative energy sources will not fix the irresponsibility of oil and gas companies.

Andrea Newby

Self/homemaker

Pottsville, TX

I ask that you support SB 3 that refers to taking measures to improve the electric grid. The bill will make the grid more reliable when generation is negatively affected by weather or other factors. I appreciate your serious consideration of this bill that will benefit the residents and businesses of Texas.

Anne Miller

Self

Austin, TX

I am writing to ask you to amend SB 3 to add more weatherization requirements to SB 3, including support weatherizing homes, and to remove Section 13 which unfairly attacks solar and wind installations. I believe our gas supply system needs to do more to ensure the lights are kept on, and utilities should do more to help Texas families reduce wasted energy. Thank you."

Binnie Hoffman

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self, ranch owner/operator

Evant, TX

In the "big freeze" of 2021, we incurred almost \$30,000 in damages due to the power outages for that week. Please hold ERCOT accountable for this lack of preparation and see to it that they use better maintenance practices and buy extra power from other states when necessary to prevent this happening again. This was a frightening and expensive experience. We are just lucky there wasn't more loss of life!

James Brosche, Mr

Self / Rancher

Walnut Springs, TX

I support this bill.

DEBORA MARINO

Wind action.org

KOPPERL, TX

Good morning: I support SB 3 as written, especially Page 16 which states..."the commission shall require intermittent generation resources in the ERCOT Power region to purchase ancillary services and replacement power sufficient to manage net load variability." It's time for the intermittent generators in Texas to be held accountable when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine. Thank you. Respectfully, D.M.

Chris Meis

self

Dallas, TX

I think that it is time for the wind and solar industries to do what is right for the citizens of Texas. After the deadly debacle of the loss of power this winter, these renewables that receive tax abatements and federal subsidies, should be held to standards so we can have reliable energy when they are unable to produce power. I support SB 3 as written and hope it is approved.

Susan Gillette

Citizens' Climate Lobby, Lubbock chapter

Lubbock, TX

The Lubbock Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby is concerned with the reliability of the ERCOT grid. SB 3 is very long, and complicated piece legislation made more complicated with each additional amendment, but what our members want to be assured of is that the heat (or air conditioning) won't go off when we need it most. Weatherization of infrastructure was not mandated in legislation after the storm in 2011, as promised, and we got caught unprepared again this year. The 2021 winter storm is costing Texans billions of dollars in clean up and given that chances of recurrence of this type of storm are increasing, we need to know that our electric utilities are up to the task. We are concerned that SB 3 does not mandate the upgrades needed, with proper oversight, and penalties for companies who are not prepared. Energy companies should be footing the bill for these upgrades and not the taxpaying customers.

In addition, we object to amendments have been added to charge renewable energy generators more for ancillary services. In this latest storm we saw the biggest decrease in generation capacity came from fossil fuels. Hardening all our energy sources is the answer, not targeting wind and solar to pay for increased generation capacity.

Bil Cruise

Self - Retired

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GATESVILLE, TX

I fully support SB3. The wind interests have received funding from taxpayers for far too long. They have produced a very poor return on investment - a poor product with poor results. Indeed, Texas lives have suffered as a result of the investment in this short-sighted technology. There are far better options in our state that need taxpayer support. These other options do not include wind or solar.

Randy Newby

Self

Pottsville, TX

I am in favor of preventing this year's weather difficulties from recurring. Please take action to protect our power generation capabilities for both safety and security. If companies can't deliver, then they should not be paid and our prices for power should not suddenly skyrocket due to 'Texas weather.'

Susan Knee

susan knee retired

Lampasas, TX

Please pass HB3 in the current context of which it's written and hold accountable intermittent solar and wind power companies when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine.

Bruce Tackett

self

Little Elm, TX

Vote Yes SB3

I write to you in strong support of SB 3 AS AMENDED ON THE SENATE FLOOR and encourage a favorable vote by the Texas House State Affairs Committee.

I am a 68-year-old third generation Texan born in Midland and currently residing in unincorporated Denton County. Most importantly, I am a residential utility ratepayer in Texas. My family and neighbors were significantly and adversely affected by the power curtailments during the February freeze event. This resulted in burst pipes and collapsed ceilings with thousands of dollars in damages.

All costs must be properly linked to the power generator regardless of generating power source. Intermittent power producers should not receive a free ride at the expense of other power generators. After not one –but two failures/near failures in the power grid, residential ratepayers cannot trust wind/solar power producers to provide reliable power.

Intermittent power generators – wind and solar – must be required to commit to providing a specific load AND through either storage or purchase (at their expense) replacement power sufficient to manage net load variability. Behind-the-meter rooftop solar must have the same obligation for either storage or on-site emergency power generation.

Failure to enact this requirement makes electric power reliability impossible. It puts the little residential customer at risk of power blackouts and asks them to pay for the failure of solar and wind generators to state and meet their power generating commitments.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to reporting to my neighbors how the Legislature is looking out for small ratepayer constituents.

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Bruce A. Tackett
2893 Lakecrest Drive
Little Elm, TX 75068

Virginia Walters, Ms.
SB 3/Schwertner
Montgomery, TX

I support SB 3 as written and hope you do the same.

Michael Taylor, Pastor
self
San Saba, TX

I fully support SB3 by Schwertner concerning power outages.

John Thomas
self employed rancher
Clifton, TX

We support SB 3 as written and that it is time for wind and solar intermittent generators in Texas be held accountable when weather conditions prohibit the adequate generation of electricity to manage net load variability. Respectfully submitted, John & Darlene Thomas

A.G. (Randy) Randol III, Dr.
Self
Houston, TX

I strongly support SB3 with a few changes to the bill suggested below.

SB3 assures UNRELIABLE INTERMITTENT power generators will finally be held accountable for FIRM BACKUP POWER.

Wind and solar generators cannot be allowed to continue to undermine the RELIABILITY of the ERCOT grid.

All Texans, including your constituents, will continue to pay the price for inaction.

The cost for this unreliability is real: 111 people died, and economic losses of \$200 billion resulted, from the February freeze.

The Committee heard very little testimony on the core issue: intermittent, weather-dependent power generators have taken advantage of the “energy-only” market. The investors are using the ERCOT grid as an ATM.

We started digging the hole 20 years ago when SB7 was passed with bold promises that failed to account for the true cost of UNRELIABILITY.

Now is the time to stop digging before it gets worse.

ERCOT now has 31,600 MW of intermittent wind and 6,100 MW of intermittent utility-scale solar. This capacity dropped to approximately 2% of the nameplate on February 15.

By 2025, ERCOT forecasts up to an additional 8,000 MW of wind and up to an additional 18,000 MW of solar, including for the

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first time ever, 6,000 MW behind-the-meter rooftop solar.

Rooftop solar compounds the nightmare we experienced: ERCOT will only see the true load when solar fails like it did in February.

Federal subsidies make it difficult, if not impossible, for reliable thermal power plants to compete. The state and local subsidies compound the market distortion. Dispatchable thermal capacity has been steadily declining while UNRELIABLES have been growing. ERCOT never sounded the alarm.

SB3 begins to address the issue of requiring intermittent generators to accept responsibility of backup to offset the weather-dependent, hourly and seasonal variability of wind and solar generators.

The provision in SB3 that directs the PUC to require wind and solar power generators in ERCOT to purchase ancillary services and replacement power sufficient to manage net load variability is a necessary correction to the pervasive market distortion. Behind-the-meter rooftop solar must have the same obligation as the utility-scale solar: either on-site backup battery storage or on-site emergency generation. Anything less would be irresponsible.

The bill must also include a new requirement for collecting behind-the-meter rooftop solar data so there are no surprises.

The intermittent generator's financial viability must be audited on an annual basis and confirmed in order for the generator to be allowed to participate in the ERCOT market.

The State Energy Plan needs to include an interim report THIS YEAR after the NERC report has been received. There should be no additional intermittent generation permitted on the ERCOT grid until the reliability of the grid has been analyzed and steps taken to address any deficiencies.

TEXAS CONSUMERS WANT FIXES NOW.

Jane Osborn, Mrs

Self retired

Keller, TX

I support this 100%!

Joshua Dowell

Self

Desdemona, TX

I fully support SB 3 as written. It is time for intermittent power sources be held accountable for backup power costs when wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine.

Courtney Dowell

Self- teacher

Desdemona, TX

I fully support SB 3 as written. It is time for wind and solar power sources to be held accountable for backup power required when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine .

Jennifer Elms

Self

Katy, TX

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Remove Sections 24 & 31 from SB 3: Backup Power Mandates for Wholesale Drinking Water Services and Required Emergency Preparedness Plans

- Utilities that provide surface water to wholesale customers must have either have backup generators or dedicated small scale power facilities to maintain 35 PSI during a power outage lasting more than 24 hours
- Backup power requirements impose an expensive burden for ratepayers with many feasibility challenges and may not address root causes of water outages
- Difficult and expensive for TCEQ to support several thousand water utilities in developing required emergency preparedness plans that TCEQ then has to approve in 90 days

Modify Sections 25-27 from SB 3: Water Billing Deferrals During Hot & Cold Weather – overly broad weather events and difficult to implement

- Requires water utility billing deferrals during hot and cold weather that could last for long periods
- Modify language to include only those customers who have experience disruption of service
- Remove the ‘heat advisory’ language
- Reduce the extreme penalties against utilities

Support Tx AWWA Proposed Amendments to SB 3

- Remove Sections 24 & 31 which impose statewide backup power requirements
- If Section 24 & 31 replacement language is needed: Require TCEQ and PUC to study backup power options
- Replace Sections 25-27: Water utilities to develop policies for billing during extreme cold events that result in water outages

Matt Allsup

Self - Regional Operations Manager

Graham, TX

I will start out with some honesty - I am a Republican, with an entire career spent in Renewable Energy. I'm also a realist, and I can spot a harmful and/or useless bill when I see one - unfortunately, this is one of those cases.

SB 3 will do NOTHING that helps the grid. The only substantial outcome (with respect to the power grid) would be the irreparable harm to EVERY SINGLE renewable resource in the state. That harms tens of thousands of constituents, including wind and solar project employees, school districts, hospitals, landowners, contractors, wives, children... I could go on, but hopefully won't have to.

If we are really after grid reliability, let's allow FERC to do their jobs, which they are already doing. Texas Reliability Entity (TRE) is already working on closer oversight of the cold weather preparation plans for ALL generators, and ERCOT is planning audits already of existing/proposed weatherization plans. The right steps are already being taken, and there is no need for political posturing.

Now to the human side of this. SB 3 has a lot of burdensome “window dressing” which just amounts to Bigger Government – and remember, we Republicans should not support that! Here's one example: Sec. 418.043, (9): establish a register of persons with types of training and skills important in disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery;

Do we really want to start establishing registers of private citizens? Is this Texas, or is it not?? Let's go one further, and look at the very next subpoint: (10) establish a register of mobile and construction equipment and temporary housing available for use in a disaster;

Ok, great. Let's make your constituents register their trucks, tractors, and RV's with the government on a special list. Oh, and their outbuildings, too. We could just go copy the whole “Texas” section of AirBNB PRIVATE PROPERTIES and hand that list over to the “authorities”.

I hope I've removed any obstacle you may have to voting NO on this horrid bill, before even getting to the main point! But, here it is:

SB3 unfairly targets renewable energy projects with the burden of becoming “firm energy”. What this means is: a 200MW project will be forced to buy power from other (natural gas) projects, to turn around and sell. Guess what? Taking money out of your front pocket and putting it in your jacket pocket DOES NOT make you richer. This is a shell game if I've ever seen one.

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Here is one example of what wind and solar actually do for the grid – they help correct power factor far better than fossil fuel plants! The fact is, the future for our grandchildren is rather bleak once the natural gas and coal run out. If we don't work on a balanced grid – wind, solar, natural gas, even nuclear – our grandkids will be in the cold much more than we were in February. Let's work on a smart grid, and not play political games with the future of our children in the balance. Vote NO on SB 3.

Paula Ostroy
Self (Paralegal)
Manor, TX

I am a native Texan, Austinite and a life-long resident of Travis County. I am opposed to SB 3 which contains last-minute amendments that penalize existing renewable energy projects here in Texas. In my opinion, while the bill itself may be beneficial, the amendment is unjust and discriminatory in nature, more importantly it destabilizes and delegitimizes the business-friendly environment for which Texas is so well known. More specifically, I oppose the amendment to SB3, as it allows for the retroactive rewriting of the renewable energy market rules of which many Texas investors, business owners, local communities, school districts, project landowners and local citizens heavily relied upon when deciding to participate in their local renewable energy projects. The amendment to SB3 will in effect, cause the unnecessary eroding of confidence in doing business in Texas and it will have a negative impact upon both businesses as well as citizens across the Lone Star state.

Respectfully, I ask that you join me in voting NO in opposition to SB3.

Thank you,
Paula D. Ostroy

Tony Velasquez
Texas Resident
Abilene, TX

SB 3 is a political statement not public policy and contains unfair policies that penalize existing renewable energy projects. By requiring ancillary services – which means additional – to be redistributed only renewable energy companies, to pay for all ancillary services, you do nothing to solve the root problem of weatherization. Texas used to be business friendly - SB 3 is anything but. SB 3 means the state of Texas is unpending contracts and going back on its word to businesses and their employees.

This amendment would shift all additional costs to one sector. The amendment to SB3 allows for the retroactive rewriting of the renewable energy market rules. Participating landowners and local citizens heavily relied on the current market design while deciding to participate in projects. Support your constituents not the politics on SB 3 by voting no.

Regards,

Tony Velasquez
Texas Resident
Abilene, TX

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Regards,

Susan Lippman, Ms.

Individual

Austin, TX

Winter storm URI exposed critical vulnerabilities in our power supply. I feel fortunate that our pipes didn't break at my south Austin home, but many fared so very much worse than we did. HB 3 has a lot of good parts to it, but some of what's in it and not in it concern me very much.

I ask you to add stronger requirements than what are in the bill to fix problems that led to the disastrous February power outage. In particular, it is very important to weatherize the fuel supply lines, such as pipelines, as well as the power plants themselves. Many power plants that were still running found their supply of gas frozen. The whole infrastructure should be inspected and weatherized, and we should diligently enforce the rules.

I strongly urge you to remove Section 13 of SB 3, which unfairly disadvantages renewable power sources. It is very counter to reality to blame renewable sources for the grid failure: their power output declined somewhat during the storm, but notably less than other sources. Also, there are wind and solar resources operating far north of here (think Canada) quite successfully, so they are fully weatherizable. I ask that you strike Section 13. Let's keep the playing field level.

I also ask that you provide for utility weatherization goals for homes and small businesses. These fixes to SB 3 would make it a much stronger and more comprehensive solution to what went wrong with our electric grid during February's deep freeze.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Kate Dietz

self - manager of water utilities systems, engineer

Tyler, TX

Remove Sections 24 & 31 from SB 3: Backup Power Mandates for Wholesale Drinking Water Services and Required Emergency Preparedness Plans

- Utilities that provide surface water to wholesale customers must have either have backup generators or dedicated small scale power facilities to maintain 35 PSI during a power outage lasting more than 24 hours
- Backup power requirements impose an expensive burden for ratepayers with many feasibility challenges and may not address root causes of water outages
- Difficult and expensive for TCEQ to support several thousand water utilities in developing required emergency preparedness plans that TCEQ then has to approve in 90 days
- Unknown amount of fuel storage, requiring potential for 12-inch natural gas lines run to bi-fuel generators with 30-day diesel supply at over \$21 million dollars project to complete.

Modify Sections 25-27 from SB 3: Water Billing Deferrals During Hot & Cold Weather – overly broad weather events and difficult to implement

- Requires water utility billing deferrals during hot and cold weather that could last for long periods
- Modify language to include only those customers who have experience disruption of service
- Remove the 'heat advisory' language
- Reduce the extreme penalties against utilities

Support Tx AWWA Proposed Amendments to SB 3

- Remove Sections 24 & 31 which impose statewide backup power requirements
- If Section 24 & 31 replacement language is needed: Require TCEQ and PUC to study backup power options
- Replace Sections 25-27: Water utilities to develop policies for billing during extreme cold events that result in water outages

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Mark Stover, Director
Apex Clean Energy
Austin, TX

Apex Clean Energy, a privately funded, American developer, owner, and operator of utility-scale wind, solar, and energy storage projects, writes to respectfully oppose SB 3.

Apex opposes SB 3 because of Section 13, an unnecessary, discriminatory provision that does not address Winter Storm Uri and will bring no changes to the ERCOT market. Section 13 simply assigns new costs to renewable energy generation.

Ancillary services procurement is undertaken by ERCOT to manage load (i.e. customer demand) variability, thermal generator outages, and renewable generator variability for the benefit of all stakeholders and to ensure a reliable grid.

Since 2016, wind and solar capacity in ERCOT has increased substantially. During that time, however, ancillary procurement has decreased, indicating limited impact on the system due to wind and solar growth.

Please also consider:

- Language similar to Section 13 saw incredibly strong opposition during a previous State Affairs Committee hearing (HB 4466, which has remained in Committee).
- Section 13 will not result in new or increased ancillary services.
- Section 13 will not increase reliability.
- Section 13 will not result in new thermal generation.
- ERCOT has previously studied assigning ancillary services costs to renewable energy and firmly decided against doing so. It found no data to support this market design change and stated that allocation of costs to wind generators was contrary to PUCT policy and ERCOT philosophy. It noted that cost allocation to wind generators would not result in improved market outcomes.
- Section 13 pushes an unknown, but potentially very high, amount of costs to renewable energy generation.
- Section 13 will raise electricity prices on consumers and will harm existing power plants.
- Section 13 will result in less tax revenue and landowner income.
- Section 13 would allow ancillary service costs caused by thermal generation and industrial load to still be socialized and paid for by all electricity consumers.
- Section 13 creates a discriminatory and unfair system.
- Section 13 breaks away from 20 years of efficient market design in ERCOT with no study whatsoever and no public input from ERCOT or the Independent Market Monitor.

Please remove Section 13 from SB 3.

Cheryl Gilpin, Former Director
Fomer Edwards Aquifer Authority director
New Braunfels Texas, TX

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 SB3, its actions do not 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. I do not approve the amendments by Schwertner or by Nathan Johnson

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Weatherization is is only voluntary must change to mandatory: change may to shall and demand deadlines be added
Omit Sect 13, SB 3 it unfairly burdens renewable but not fossil fuel energy suppliers.

No shifting of approval Authority and pricing cap setting away from legislators the public can remain able to hold accountable.
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"Without fundamental power market reform:

Consumers will eat a \$50 billion bill, with more of these erratic "uplift" charges to come;
A State-sponsored restructuring bond won't get funded;
Bankruptcy lawyers and hedge funds will get rich at the expense of Texas citizens;
Investors won't provide capital to build the very generation capacity that we dearly need; oh, and also...
Power prices will spike again this summer, or the next, or the next."

"Moreover, a simple fact is that trade claims in bankruptcy have a senior claim to unsecured debts, namely pension obligations. If a municipal utility were to file for bankruptcy protection, all municipal employee pensions"

We do not support narrowly constrained types of assessments and evaluations in current energy bills' impacts of harms and risks because the harms caused by extreme pricing and outages of essential power service are very broad and systemic and even lethal and impact health and safety and property damage and financial distress on many levels and for long periods after emergencies and shortages. For example my family members all living in the country in and around Bryan College station area experienced the death of Two elders during the week of storm Uri one from a heart attack and one from a stroke and two younger families' homes became unlivable and moved in with their elders and they all came down with covid sending elders to hospitals and rehab centers over a month after the storm for catching covid during the storm. I nearly died of hypothermia myself from warm clothes getting wet and not being able to get either myself or my warm clothes dry or warm. After several outage cycles my outside central air unit quit running altogether.

We also support any recommendations by Robin Schneider with Texas Campaign for the Environment

Lendon Gilpin, Former Asst. Director
self

New Braunfels Texas, TX

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From Lendon and Cheryl Gilpin, Former Edwards Aquifer Authority Director, B.S. Aquatic Science M.S.
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