

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on State Affairs  
For HB 4208

Compiled on: Thursday, April 20, 2023 1:53 AM

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Hearing Date: April 19, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Clinton Rarey

Self

Austin, TX

In favor for

Raymond Farley

Self / Businessman

AUSTIN, TX

I strongly support this bill.

Donna Ellis

Self/Retired

Austin, TX

Regarding HB 4208, I do not believe that Austin Energy or Austin Water need to be broken up and privatized. The last thing we need in this economy is to have our public utility turned into a cable company. We are extremely fortunate to have municipal utilities. I am against this idea 100%.

Any alterations made should benefit our public utility. Such as, Travis County, I would prefer that the county shift residential property taxpayer dollars away from AISD and Austin Community College, and use that money to fortify Austin Police, and Austin Energy/Austin Water.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul Robbins, Consumer Advocate

Self

Austin, TX

This bill is poorly designed. I am against it.

Austin Energy has a tiny fraction of its customers in outlying cities. They would have an absurdly outsized influence on the vast majority of Austin Energy customers.

Regarding the concept of a board itself, it would almost eliminate accountability to voters.

Restricting the membership to certain professions would be like telling the Legislature you could not govern ERCOT unless the Representatives were in certain professions.

I also wonder how this would affect sales of Austin Energy bonds. These are approved by the Austin City Council, but the new unaccountable board would be largely determined by other cities.

Finally, I wonder how this would affect ratepayers living outside of Austin. Currently these customers have discounted rates because they do not live in Austin. This is indirectly due to their ability to appeal rates to the Texas Public Utility Commission. If outside ratepayers are now represented, would the ability to appeal be eliminated?

Debra Fincher

self

Austin, TX

I support passage of this legislation. A city the size of Austin needs independent management of it's utilities - with a knowledgeable staff. NOT POLITICIANS! We have had major power outages, multiple boil water orders and soon we will have wildfire dangers due to the mismanagement of the utilities. Help stop this madness and turn Austin around to be a safe stable city.

Melinda Cassidy, Mrs

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly support this bill in light of the events of the last two wintry blasts that the city of Austin endured.

Anne Miller

Self

Austin, TX

Please oppose this legislation, and allow Austin local control of our utilities.

Jay Roberson

- None -

Austin, TX

I urge your support to pass HB4208 out of committee for full House consideration. In certain cities like Austin with municipally owned electric utilities, rate paying customers have no say in the quality, consistency and cost of service. We can't vote on the manager or a board of directors or even choose to redress unresolved grievances by selecting an alternative supplier. And, the cities take a certain large proportion of revenues for general fund appropriation. These are 'taxes' by any other measure disguised as service fees. Why aren't these cities transparent with what these taxes will be used for? The proportion allocated to the city general fund bears no resemblance to the risk of consistent delivery of electricity through 'hardening' of the infrastructure both to freezing or excessive heat demand. These fees should not be directed to the city without a professional risk assessment and objective independent oversight. Please by the city that this is another example of State over-reach ring hollow when mismanagement consistently have been demonstrated in several functions of local government including water, cost of housing (due to these fees, unchecked increases in valuations, and oppressive permitting), police (basic public safety), pandemic over-reaction, etc. Time to get real and force common sense because municipal representatives are incapable or unwilling to do so. Thank you.

Stefan Cameron

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill. An independent, properly experienced board would help better manage our electrical utility. Less favoritism, more action.

John Allison

Self, Software System Engineer

Austin, TX

I support HB 4208 because it will ensure good management and oversight of Austin Energy!

Ellen Wood

self, owner of Austin based business vcfo, Inc. 27 years

Austin, TX

I support this bill because it will significantly increase the level of experience, expertise, and independence of the oversight of the utility. It is somewhat unbelievable that Austin residents are captive to a utility that is run by the members of the city council. Council members were not elected for their expertise in running any business much less a huge utility that touches every Austinite (because we have no choice in Austin.) Please note they also regularly transfer \$100M per year or more to the city general fund. My concern is personal in that I live in Austin but would be true for any city of the size under discussion here. Please support this bill and help Austin and all Texans upskill our leadership and oversight of this critical service.

Douglas P Keenan

self

Austin, TX

I am writing to you today to demand your support of these three (3) bills in the House Hearing at 10:30am on Wednesday, April 19, 2023:

HB 4207 - Relating to municipally owned utility vegetation management.

HB 4208 - Relating to the management and control of certain municipal electric utility systems.

HB 4213 - Relating to rates for electricity charged by certain municipally owned utilities and to the use of revenue from the rates. The City of Austin's grip on our pocketbooks for funds that are carelessly spent on their pet projects without our approval must end.

Sincerely

Douglas P Keenan

2001 Port Royal Drive

Austin, TX 78746

512 663 6954 mobile

Julia A Keenan

self

Austin, TX

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Sincerely

Douglas P Keenan

2001 Port Royal Drive

Austin, TX 78746

512 663 6954 mobile

Megan Czapla

self; education/management

Austin, TX

I support this bill; please pass it!

James Shive Jr., Mr.

Self

Austin, TX

City of Austins' City Council members and their appointed commission has mismanaged the utility to collect more that 100 million dollars within the the fee structure not to serve the locked in customers but to fund pet projects that may serve the few but not their actual customers.

Merry Brand

self

Austin, TX

I am very much in favor of this Bill for the smart management of our Utilities.

Patricia Dziuk, PhD

self, psychologist

Austin, TX

PLEASE PASS HB4208. Tax payers deserve more competent oversight of our tax dollars and more reliable electric utility systems

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Donald Walker

Self retired

Austin, TX

I support this Bill... we need experienced , professional management of our municipal electric utility systems

Martha Rasco

Self// Calligrapher

Austin, TX

I urge you to support HB4208to do right for we the people in Austin.

James Lynch

Myself

Austin, TX

Austin deserves an independent professionally managed utility that is not a revenue source for the city of Austin therefore I support this bill.

Elizabeth Myers

Self

Austin, TX

It is time to bring integrity and trust back to the City of Austin and start looking out for residents best interests -stop funding and pushing woke agendas that do not align with the majority of how Austinites feel. We deserve better. We are in support of HB4208.