

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on State Affairs  
For SB 2453

Compiled on: Wednesday, May 17, 2023 6:28 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

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Hearing Date: May 17, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Christina Keller  
Citizens Climate Lobby  
San Antonio, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

My name is Christina Keller from San Antonio. I am a constituent of Representative Trey Martinez Fischer in House District 116, and I am a volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

Currently, there is a restriction in state code that has been interpreted to prevent the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) from adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). These new codes have been shown by the Energy Systems Laboratory to be 5-10 percent more efficient than current state code. The bill would remove the interpreted restriction allowing SECO to implement the new codes to ensure that new construction is more energy and cost efficient.

Please see this May 11, 2023 report from the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy titled, "Energy Efficiency And Demand-Response: Tools To Address Texas' Reliability Challenges: Summary" available here – <https://www.aceee.org/white-paper/2023/05/energy-efficiency-and-demand-response-tools-address-texas-reliability>

The report outlines how we could better tackle spiking summer and winter power demands while reducing—not raising—overall costs to households and businesses. Incentivizing energy-saving upgrades in homes and commercial buildings and rewarding electric customers for voluntarily shifting some of their energy use to off-peak hours would reduce peak electrical demand and improve grid reliability at a far lower cost than building proposed new, subsidized power plants.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because I want to leave a the world a better place for future generations.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Kelsey Balaban  
Citizens Climate Lobby volunteer  
Austin, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453. My name is Kelsey Balaban and I live in Austin. I'm a constituent of Sen. Sarah Eckhardt in Senate District 14 and Rep. Gina Hinojosa in House District 49. I'm also a volunteer with the nonpartisan nonprofit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to make our energy usage more efficient.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option; it creates more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste, thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

Currently, there is a restriction in state code that has been interpreted to prevent the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) from adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). These new codes have been shown by the Energy Systems Laboratory to be 5-10 percent more efficient than current state code. The bill would remove the interpreted restriction allowing SECO to implement the new codes to ensure that new construction is more energy and cost efficient.

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The report outlines how we could better tackle spiking summer and winter power demands while reducing—not raising—overall costs to households and businesses. Incentivizing energy-saving upgrades in homes and commercial buildings would reduce peak electrical demand and improve grid reliability at a far lower cost than building proposed new, subsidized power plants.

Improving building efficiency while reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because I want to keep Texas as livable as possible for myself and the people I love. Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Sincerely,  
Kelsey Balaban

Kalpana Sutaria, Mrs.  
Citizens' Climate Lobby  
Austin, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

I am Kalpana Sutaria and I live in Austin, Texas. I am a constituent of Representative James Talarico in House District 50, and that I am a volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

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Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because by lowering the emissions, we can cut down on rising average global temperature and stabilize our climate. The would improve quality of life for Texans.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Elaine Robbins  
Citizens Climate Lobby volunteer  
Austin, TX  
Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

My name is Elaine Robbins, and I live in Austin. I am a constituent of Representative Gina Hinojosa in House District 49. I am a volunteer with the nonpartisan nonprofit Citizens Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby, reducing climate pollution emissions.

Currently, there is a restriction in state code that has been interpreted to prevent the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) from adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). These new codes have been shown by the Energy Systems Laboratory to be 5-10 percent more efficient than current state code. The bill would remove the interpreted restriction, allowing SECO to implement the new codes to ensure that new construction is more energy and cost efficient.

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Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because several of my elderly relatives have already had to flee their homes due to climate change-induced floods and fires. I want future Texans to have a good life free from disruption.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Elaine Robbins

Susan Meredith  
MentaMorph Incorporated  
Austin, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

I am Susan Meredith from Austin Texas in Donna Howard's district, #41. I am a volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I have specific experience with the codes that this bill relates to - I co-founded energy efficiency startup achieving successful completion of over one thousand projects for private and government customers with successful exit to new owner after seven years and I have an HVAC license.

As a contractor committed to the best for our clients, I appreciate this bill because it ensures a level playing field when providing the best energy efficiency solutions that are cost effective, ensure air quality and comfort in the buildings, and address the critical need to reduce emissions. Building materials such as HVAC refrigerants and concrete have high CO2-equivalent emissions.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

I understand that there is a restriction in state code that has been interpreted to prevent the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) from adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). These new codes have been shown by the Energy Systems Laboratory to be 5-10 percent more efficient than current state code. The bill would remove the interpreted restriction allowing SECO to implement the new codes to ensure that new construction is more energy and cost efficient.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453. If I can be a resource to understand energy efficiency in buildings I would be honored to do so.

Swadesh Mitter Mahajan, Dr.

Personal

Austin, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

My name is Dr. Swadesh M. Mahajan and I am a constituent of Representative James Talarico in House District 50. I am a professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

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Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because I am deeply concerned about my grandchildren's future.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Barry Friedman  
Citizens Climate lobby/ volunteer  
Spring, TX  
Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 258.

I am a constituent of Representative Steve Toth in House District 15, and that I am a volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

Please support this bill !

Thomas Wikman  
Citizens Climate Lobby volunteer  
Dallas, TX  
Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

My name is Thomas Wikman and I live in Dallas, Texas, 75230. I am a voter and a constituent in house district 108 – Representative Morgan Meyer. I am a volunteer with the non-profit and non-partisan volunteer driven organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature’s efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

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Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because I’ve seen the effects of climate change with my own eyes in northern Sweden where it is more obvious, and I know it is just the beginning. I am concerned for future generations including my children.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Richard Howe

self, and volunteer with Citizens Climate Lobby

Plano, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

I am a native Texan, lifelong conservative voter, and constituent of Representative Jeff Leach, House District 67. I volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

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I am passionate about actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions because I want to do everything I can to ensure a safe, sustainable, and livable world for my four grandchildren and their future generations. It's time to come together and take action on this important issue because it's real, it's us, it's serious, scientists agree, and there's hope and economic opportunities in the transition.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Rosanne Friedman

Citizens Climate Lobby/Volunteer

Spring, TX

Rosanne Friedman here a voter and constituent.

I support this bill. I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

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Paul Gonin  
Citizens Climate lobby volunteer  
Georgetown, TX  
Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

My name is Paul Gonin and I live in Georgetown. I am a constituent of Representative Terry Wilson in House District 20. I am a volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

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Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because failure to do so will lead to a worldwide climate catastrophe. I want a livable world for my five grandchildren, for humanity and all forms of life.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Robert Jones  
Self/Citizens' Climate Education  
Conroe, TX  
Committee Chair and Members,

My name is Robert L. Jones. My wife and I reside in Conroe. Our State Representative is Mr. Cecil Bell, District 3. I have worked in power generation, energy production and energy efficiency for many years. I am active with sustainability and environmental groups such as The Woodlands Green and Citizens' Climate Education & Lobby.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Efficient buildings save energy, money, and better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. It is just very obvious that energy efficiency reduces waste, saves money and reduces greenhouse and other pollutants.

Currently, there is a restriction in state code that has been interpreted to prevent the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) from adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). These new codes have been shown by the Energy Systems Laboratory to be 5-10 percent more efficient than current state code. The bill would remove the interpreted restriction allowing SECO to implement the new codes to ensure that new construction is more energy and cost efficient.

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Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Aurora Schneider  
Citizens' Climate Lobby Volunteer  
Denton, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

My name is Aurora Schneider and I currently live in Denton, Texas. A constituent of Representative Lynn Stucky's district in House District 64, and I'm a volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy-efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

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I'm commenting and supporting this bill, and other related bills, not just for the benefit of all Texans, but I think about my sister. She's an 8-year-old girl who has autism, is non-verbal and she can't sweat or regulate her body temperature, especially in the heat. She can't be outside in the heat long without someone consistently watching her, putting water on her head, and hydrating her because she won't communicate or express if she's feeling uncomfortable. Every bit of action I can take to help advocate for a stronger and more resilient grid makes me feel safer about my sister's health especially with the Texas summers getting hotter, and the grid seemingly becoming more strained each year. Because I don't want to think about a possible power outage like the one during Winter Storm Uri, but instead during summer.

Progress in energy efficiency and development is important to me as a caring big sister, a new college graduate thinking about my future, and a born and raised resident of the state of Texas.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Ann Drumm

Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteer

Dallas, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453. My name is Ann Drumm, and I live in the Uptown neighborhood of Dallas, in Rep. Morgan Meyer's district, HD 108. I am a volunteer with the national nonpartisan organization Citizens' Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability. I support this bill because lowering demand is just as important as increasing supply when it comes to addressing climate change and energy costs for Texas consumers.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

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Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Daniel Burns  
Citizens Climate Lobby Volunteer  
Spring, TX  
Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

My name is Daniel Burns and I live in Spring, Texas. I'm a constituent of Valerie Swanson, in District 150, and a volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

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Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because I have 3 pre-school age grandchildren and I wish to leave them a strong Texas with a healthy environment in which to grow and thrive.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Burns  
17711 Seven Pines Dr  
Spring, Texas 77379

Edward George  
Citizens' Climate Lobby, Lubbock Chapter (volunteer)  
Lubbock, TX

I am a longtime resident of Lubbock, a volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby, a nonpartisan volunteer organization, and a constituent of House District 84 Representative Carl Tepper.

I urge you to vote for SB 2453, which provides that the International Energy Conservation Code, along with its updates, is adopted as the energy code for use in Texas for all non-exempted residential, commercial, and industrial construction. The bill makes it easier to adopt new energy codes, resulting in better energy efficiency, reduction of power consumed, lowering of consumer cost, and enhancing safety during instances of curtailed power availability. Thank you for your role in looking after the best interests of Texans. Please vote for SB 2453.

Martha Adams  
Citizens' Climate Lobby  
Austin, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

My name is Susan Adams, and I live in Austin TX where I am a constituent of Senator Eckhardt in SD14 and Rep. Gina Hinojosa in HD49. I am with the non-partisan, grassroots organization Citizens' Climate Lobby.

Thank you for your hard work on improving our electric grid reliability, an issue that is critical to me and my neighbors. That's why I support SB 2453, which would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. It is common sense to construct buildings to be efficient from the get-go. Plus, it makes homes more comfortable, saves consumers money, and ultimately protects residents from extreme weather should the power go out. As a bonus, energy efficient homes reduce energy waste, reducing greenhouse gas pollution.

Currently, there is a restriction in state code that has been interpreted to prevent the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) from adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). These new codes have been shown by the Energy Systems Laboratory to be 5-10 percent more efficient than current state code. The bill would remove the interpreted restriction allowing SECO to implement the new codes to ensure that new construction is more energy and cost efficient.

If you haven't already, please look at this May 11, 2023 report from the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy titled, "Energy Efficiency And Demand-Response: Tools To Address Texas' Reliability Challenges: Summary":

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This report does a great job of showing how we can manage power demand spikes while actually LOWERING costs to homes and businesses. Incentivizing energy-saving upgrades in homes and commercial buildings and rewarding electric customers for voluntarily shifting some of their energy use to off-peak hours is just common sense, especially compared with the proposal to build new, tax-payer subsidized power plants that are ultimately unnecessary and bad for the future of Texas.

I feel strongly about prioritizing the reduction of greenhouse gases so that my daughters and one day my grandchildren can enjoy the same growing seasons, stable climate, and peace of mind about their future that I have enjoyed throughout my adult life. Many places that we cherish are endangered by sea level rise, droughts, and fires, like our family home in rural Eastern Washington and our beloved beaches in Galveston.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Susan

Kabyn Vikesland  
Citizens Climate Lobby  
HELOTES, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

My name is Kabyn Vikesland from San Antonio. I am a constituent of Representative Mark Dorazio in House District 122, and I volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

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The report outlines how we could better tackle spiking summer and winter power demands while reducing—not raising—overall costs to households and businesses. Incentivizing energy-saving upgrades in homes and commercial buildings and rewarding electric customers for voluntarily shifting some of their energy use to off-peak hours would reduce peak electrical demand and improve grid reliability at a far lower cost than building proposed new, subsidized power plants.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because to not care for creation is an affront to our Creator and harmful to us and our children.

Thanks you for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Bruce Miglin, Dr  
Citizens' Climate Lobby Volunteer  
Austin, TX  
Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

My name is Dr. Bruce Miglin (retired engineer). I live in Austin, TX and am represented by Rep. Vikki Goodwin (House District 47). I am a volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

Currently, there is a restriction in state code that has been interpreted to prevent the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) from adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). These new codes have been shown by the Energy Systems Laboratory to be 5-10 percent more efficient than current state code. The bill would remove the interpreted restriction allowing SECO to implement the new codes to ensure that new construction is more energy and cost efficient.

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Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because I have witnessed the effects of severe weather caused by rising temperatures. I helped muck out homes flooded by the slow moving Hurricane Harvey. I have seen how greenhouse gas emissions (i.e., air pollution) have degraded the respiratory health of my family members. I have also noted my own increased sensitivity to airborne matter. Hence, air quality has become a personal matter to me.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Anne Miller  
Self  
Austin, TX

Please approve this legislation to modify building codes so that new construction will be more energy and cost efficient.

Marie Miglin, Dr.  
Citizens' Climate Lobby, volunteer  
Austin, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453. My name is Marie Miglin and I live in Austin. I am a constituent of Vikki Goodwin in House District 47. I have been volunteering as a Chapter Leader with Citizens' Climate Lobby since 2015.

Although I am otherwise healthy, ground level ozone, which forms when sunlight hits car exhaust and fossil fuel combustion emissions, gives me debilitating headaches and fatigue. We can't turn down the sun, so the clear solution is to reduce emissions.

I am excited about SB 2453 because it would reduce fossil fuel emissions from new buildings. SB2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option. Being more energy efficient reduces energy waste, thereby reducing fossil fuel emissions.

Currently, there is a restriction in state code that has been interpreted to prevent the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) from adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). These new codes have been shown by the Energy Systems Laboratory to be 5-10 percent more efficient than current state code. The bill would remove the interpreted restriction allowing SECO to implement the new codes to ensure that new construction is more energy and cost efficient.

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Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453. I appreciate your service to the great state of Texas.

Marie T. Miglin, PhD.  
Co-Leader, Austin Chapter  
Citizens' Climate Lobby

Lauren Juarez  
Citizens Climate Lobby - volunteer  
Fort Worth, TX  
Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

My name is Lauren, and I live in Fort Worth, TX. I am a constituent of Representative Goldman in House District 97, and I am a volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

Currently, there is a restriction in state code that has been interpreted to prevent the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) from adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). These new codes have been shown by the Energy Systems Laboratory to be 5-10 percent more efficient than current state code. The bill would remove the interpreted restriction allowing SECO to implement the new codes to ensure that new construction is more energy and cost efficient.

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Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because I am a young person and climate change will significantly impact my lifetime.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Zane Bartlett  
Self, Citizens' Climate Lobby  
Dallas, TX

Dear Committee Chair and Esteemed Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

I am Zane Bartlett, a resident of North Dallas and a constituent of Representative Ana-Maria Ramos in House District 102. Additionally, I volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit organization, Citizens Climate Lobby.

I wish to express my appreciation for the legislature's ongoing efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 aims to simplify the process for the state to adopt updated, more energy-efficient building codes for new construction. Building energy-efficient structures from the start is the most cost-effective approach and results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather conditions, especially during power outages. Moreover, increased energy efficiency reduces energy waste and consequently reduces climate pollution emissions.

Currently, a restriction in the state code has been interpreted to prevent the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) from adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). These new codes, as demonstrated by the Energy Systems Laboratory, are 5-10 percent more efficient than the current state code. The bill would eliminate the interpreted restriction, allowing SECO to implement the new codes to ensure that new construction is more energy and cost-efficient.

Please refer to the report published on May 11, 2023, by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, titled "Energy Efficiency And Demand-Response: Tools To Address Texas' Reliability Challenges: Summary," available at this link - <https://www.aceee.org/white-paper/2023/05>

Brenda Kirlin  
Self and Volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby  
Fort Worth, TX  
Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

I am Brenda Kirlin, a resident of Fort Worth, Texas, and a constituent of Rep. Craig Goldman in House District 97. I am a volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the Texas Legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient, building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power goes out. Moreover, an energy efficient status quo reduces energy waste, thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

Currently, there is a restriction in state code that has been interpreted to prevent the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) from adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). These new codes have been shown by the Energy Systems Laboratory to be 5-10 percent more efficient than current state code. The bill would remove the interpreted restriction allowing SECO to implement the new codes to ensure that new construction is more energy and cost efficient.

For more information on how we could better tackle spiking summer and winter power demands while reducing—not raising—overall costs to households and businesses, please see this May 11, 2023, report from the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy titled, “Energy Efficiency And Demand-Response: Tools To Address Texas’ Reliability Challenges: Summary” available here – <https://www.aceee.org/white-paper/2023/05/energy-efficiency-and-demand-response-tools-address-texas-reliability>

Incentivizing energy-saving upgrades in homes and commercial buildings and rewarding electric customers for voluntarily shifting some of their energy use to off-peak hours would reduce peak electrical demand and improve grid reliability at a far lower cost than building proposed new, subsidized power plants.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because it minimizes extreme weather conditions like hurricanes and winter storms, reduces the chance of famine and war, reduces sweltering heat in the summer, and reduces air pollution.

I extend my gratitude for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Frank Huddleston  
Citizens Climate Lobby volunteer  
San Antonio, TX  
Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

I am Frank Huddleston, a constituent of Representative Bernal, House District 123, and am a volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

Currently, there is a restriction in state code that has been interpreted to prevent the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) from adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). These new codes have been shown by the Energy Systems Laboratory to be 5-10 percent more efficient than current state code. The bill would remove the interpreted restriction allowing SECO to implement the new codes to ensure that new construction is more energy and cost efficient.

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Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because .....

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because I am a resident of planet Earth and plan to be so for some time. I think it's in all our interests to maintain the climate and environment in a liveable state, and it appears that reducing our use of fossil fuels and encouraging the use of sustainable sources of energy is one of the most important ways we can accomplish that.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Mitchell Kobus  
Citizens Climate Lobby volunteer  
Plano, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

My name is Mitchell Kobus and I live in Plano. I am a constituent of Representative Mihaela Plesa in House District 70, and I am a volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

Currently, there is a restriction in state code that has been interpreted to prevent the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) from adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). These new codes have been shown by the Energy Systems Laboratory to be 5-10 percent more efficient than current state code. The bill would remove the interpreted restriction allowing SECO to implement the new codes to ensure that new construction is more energy and cost efficient.

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Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because I wish for my children and grandchildren to inherit a world that is still habitable for all, in spite of the depredations and degradations we have inflicted upon it. It also saves citizens money, as well as less suffering and loss, due to extreme climate events like Winter Storm Uri of 2021 or Hurricane Harvey of 2017 which were ultimately caused by increased greenhouse gas emissions.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Mitchell Kobus

Matthew Ott  
Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteer  
Austin, TX  
Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

My name is Mat Ott, an Austinite since 1978 and the founder of two nonprofit organizations that have benefitted our music scene to the tune of over \$5,000,000 in direct financial impact and countless hours of mentoring and support. I am a constituent of Senator Eckhardt in SD14 and Rep. Gina Hinojosa in HD49. As a Texan that believes in innovation, the free market and the common sense solutions that make Texas the incredible place it is to live that it is, I am also a volunteer with the non-partisan, grassroots organization Citizens' Climate Lobby.

Thank you for your hard work on improving our electric grid reliability, an issue that is critical to me and my neighbors. That's why I support SB 2453, which would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more modern building codes for efficient new construction. Constructing buildings efficiently from the start saves home owners money and protects those residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. Plus, it reduced climate pollution.

When I read of bills that promote the creation of new power plants that would sit idle, at the cost of billions of dollars to our fellow Texans, until needed I don't feel like I'm living in the state that I've been proud to call home for over four decades. Rather I see a state grasping to hold on to a past that is clearly in our rear-view mirror rather than using that money to bolster the future for our children through education, conservation and the investment in transmission and conservation infrastructure that will pay off in the long term.

Texans have always been a scrappy people, doing what it takes not just to survive but to thrive. Conservation and innovation are two of the attributes that define who we are. Now is the time to stand proud and embrace these attributes to make sure we, as Texans, do the right thing and keep this "Texas Miracle" going.

Currently, there is a restriction in state code that has been interpreted to prevent the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) from adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). These new codes have been shown by the Energy Systems Laboratory to be 5-10 percent more efficient than current state code. The bill would remove the interpreted restriction allowing SECO to implement the new codes to ensure that new construction is more energy and cost efficient.

I feel strongly about prioritizing the reduction of greenhouse gases so that my daughters and one day my grandchildren can enjoy the same growing seasons, stable climate, and peace of mind about their future that I have enjoyed throughout my adult life. Many places that we cherish are endangered by sea level rise, droughts, and fires, like our family home in rural Eastern Washington and our beloved beaches in Galveston.

Thank you!  
Matt

Cheryl Clark  
Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteer  
Oak Point, TX  
Committee Chair and Members,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit written comments in support of SB 2453, which would allow for an update to building codes in the state of Texas.

My name is Cheryl Clark, and I live in Oak Point, TX, in Denton County. I am a constituent of Representative Richard Hayes in House District 57. I am a volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby, a non-partisan, non-profit organization that advocates for smart energy and climate solutions.

Thank you for your efforts to improve the reliability of our electric grid.

The reason I support SB 2453 is that it makes it easier for Texas to adopt newer, more energy efficient codes based on those used throughout the country and the world. It is easier to create energy efficiency in a home as it being constructed than it is to retrofit it afterwards. I personally experienced this issue recently when we had to update the water heater in our house. I knew that the most efficient kind of water heater is a hybrid electric system, also called a heat pump water heater, and that choosing one would allow us to take advantage of current tax credits. Unfortunately, my home was not designed in such a way that allows us to install this energy efficient, cost-effective solution. If our home had been designed with energy efficiency in mind, we would have had more choices when updating our appliances.

As you can see, while it may seem that building codes with energy efficiency in mind lessen consumers' choices, they actually expands choice by allowing consumers to take advantage of tax credits and rebates while saving money and increasing grid reliability.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Lucy Marco  
Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteer  
Austin, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

My name is Lucy Marco. I am 20 years old, a sophomore in college, and have lived in Austin for most of my life. I am a constituent of Senator Eckhardt and Rep. Gina Hinojosa and a volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby.

Thank you for working to improve our electric grid reliability, an issue that is so important to me. I have a friend whose home was permanently destroyed by winter storm Uri because without electricity their pipes and water heater froze and burst, causing their roof to cave in. He and his brother lived in their home for months, enduring the mold and unsanitary conditions. The cost of the repairs was so expensive they finally had to abandon the home. The state didn't compensate them, and their lives have been permanently, negatively effected. It is our responsibility to ensure that this problem doesn't happen again.

That's why I support SB 2453, which would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more modern building codes for efficient, safe new construction. Constructing buildings efficiently from the start saves home owners money and protects those residents from extreme weather if the power does go out.

I'm frustrated with what I've seen happening in the legislature this session, punishing renewable energy and focus on building out new fossil fuel plants. I feel like blaming something that wasn't responsible for the grid issues (renewables), spreading false information, and making fossil fuel companies richer is for what purpose? Are you waiting for the day that actual irreversible catastrophe happens before you do something? Are you hoping this will happen after you're dead so you don't have to worry about it?

You need to be getting your information from scientists who actually know the answer to these problems. Pushing a false solution makes it seem like the problem is fixed, while actually pushing us further towards disaster and making the rich people richer. I worry that you know exactly what's happening and are choosing to be ignorant and not think about it just so that you can continue to exploit my future to make yourself more comfortable today. This isn't fair to me, my friends, every other human on earth, and every baby that continues to be born.

Climate action is extremely important to everyone my age that I have ever spoken to. It will effect every corner of the Earth and every aspect of our lives. Just because you don't see it in front of your eyes this minute, doesn't mean that we aren't currently having devastating consequences on the oceans, the growing seasons, the jet stream, the water cycle, you name it. If you don't intervene now, then when? Even if you're skeptical about how bad it will be, why NOT improve our lives, clean our air, start at the legislative level to build a new, more beneficial future for us all?

Thank you for considering my comments. Even just supporting this bill is a sign that you care about future generations.

Lucy

Cynthia Lesky  
Citizens' Climate Lobby  
Austin, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

My name is Cynthia Lesky. I live in Austin in Rep. Gina Hinojosa's District 49. I am a concerned citizen and a volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby, a non-partisan, non-profit organization.

I am writing to urge adoption of SB2453 related to building codes for energy efficiency. This is in turn related to grid reliability.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Besides being more comfortable, energy efficient homes reduce energy waste, thereby reducing grid load and also reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Currently, there is a restriction in state code that has been interpreted to prevent the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) from adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). These new codes have been shown by the Energy Systems Laboratory to be 5-10 percent more efficient than current state code. The bill would remove the interpreted restriction allowing SECO to implement the new codes to ensure that new construction is more energy and cost efficient.

Energy efficiency is important to me because wasting anything, including power is unwise and contrary to the ethos on which this country was founded. I also care deeply about the impact that climate change will make on the life of my infant grandson and his descendants.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Laura Smith  
Citizens Climate Lobby volunteer  
College Station, TX  
Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

My name is Laura Smith, and I live in College Station, Texas. I am a constituent of Representative John Raney in House District 14 and a citizen volunteer with the non-partisan, non-profit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

My great-grandmother lived through the 1930s and taught me to conserve and to always be frugal with my resources—even when it wasn't strictly necessary. Her wisdom, taught more through actions than words, strongly influence the person I am today. It may also be why I support SB 2453.

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is just smart. It is the most affordable option and results in more comfortable and resilient homes. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

Currently, there is a restriction in state code that has been interpreted to prevent the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) from adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). The bill would remove the interpreted restriction allowing SECO to implement the new codes, which have been shown by the Energy Systems Laboratory to be 5-10 percent more efficient than current state code.

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Making buildings more energy efficient from the beginning just makes good sense—wasting less will cost us less in the long run and will help preserve the wonderful world we have been lucky to live in.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453.

Pamela Johnson, Dr.  
Citizens Climate Lobby and League of Women's Voters, Brazos Valley  
College Station, TX  
Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

My name is Dr. Pamela L. Johnson and my residence is in College Station, TX. I AM a constituent of Representative John Raney, Texas House District 14 and I am a volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit organization Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) and The League of Women's Voters, Brazos Valley.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability. **THIS BILL IS VERY, VERY IMPORTANT FOR EVERYONE!**

SB 2453 would make it easier for the state to adopt newer, more energy efficient building codes for new construction. Constructing buildings to be efficient from the start is the most affordable option and also results in more comfortable homes that better protect residents from extreme weather if the power does go out. And being more energy efficient reduces energy waste thereby reducing climate pollution emissions.

Currently, there is a restriction in state code that has been interpreted to prevent the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) from adopting the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC). These new codes have been shown by the Energy Systems Laboratory to be 5-10 percent more efficient than current state code. The bill would remove the interpreted restriction allowing SECO to implement the new codes to ensure that new construction is more energy and cost efficient.

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Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important for everyone, **INCLUDING YOU!** This is quite obvious.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of SB 2453. I truly hope you will vote for SB 2453.

Sincerely,

P. L. Johnson MD

Susan Gillette

Citizens' Climate Lobby, Lubbock chapter

Lubbock, TX

My name is Susan Gillette and I live in Lubbock. I am a volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby. Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in support of SB 2453.

This bill would update building codes to address efficiency needs in Texas. This has always been a state known for innovation and creative use of new technology, but on building codes, we have fallen behind.

Building codes are critical in reducing energy consumption. Since buildings consume some 70 percent of our electric usage and 40 percent of energy use overall, the potential for energy and money savings is great. Making buildings more efficient from the start is less expensive than fixing them later, saving money for consumers in the long run. We should be preparing for the future with the best technology available.

Building codes help protect people from damage in events such as earthquakes, fires, and floods. We have no control over earthquakes, but human use of fossil fuel is what is driving the increased risk of other extreme events such as fires, floods, heat, drought, sea level rise and more large storm events. Better building codes mean lower energy use and lower greenhouse gas emissions. This is the best way for us to increase the security for future generations from damage of these increasing extreme weather events due to climate change. Better building codes would help not only in mitigating damage, but in adaptation to our changing environment.

Thank you for your consideration. Please vote yes on SB 2453.

MICHAEL BREWER

Texas Pecanerosa Orchard

Sunnyvale, TX

I am in support of this!

Larry Linenschmidt

Self

Austin, TX

Chairman Hunter, Vice Chairwoman Hernandez, and Distinguished Members of the House State Affairs Committee,

By updating to the IRC 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the Energy Chapter of the 2021 International Residential Code (IRC), the Energy Systems Laboratory has determined there could be a 5-10 percent increase in energy efficiency compared to current state code. Allowing SECO to implement the new codes allows new construction to be more energy and cost efficient.

These incremental improvements in energy efficiency will reduce the load on the grid, decrease emissions, decrease water use by thermal power plants, and will be cost effective for the people of Texas.

Please vote for this bill.

Larry Linenschmidt, Executive Director

Hill Country Institute

Host, Hill Country Institute Live: Exploring Christ & Culture

[www.hillcountryinstitute.org](http://www.hillcountryinstitute.org)

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[larrylinenschmidt@gmail.com](mailto:larrylinenschmidt@gmail.com)

Volunteer, Citizens' Climate Lobby

Partner, Evangelical Environmental Network

EcoRight Leadership Council, RepublicEn