

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on State Affairs  
For SB 2627

Compiled on: Thursday, May 11, 2023 1:38 AM

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 10, 2023 8:00 AM

Mark Warren  
self - retired engineer  
Austin, TX

A very ill-conceived bill this is. Another waste of government money plus corporate giveaway. Seriously, 0% interest loans? A “bonus” given to companies who actually construct a power plant? How much of a “bonus”? One assumes that will be decided upon in another backroom deal with legislators and the corporations. And if all that were not enough, the bill claims to desire to support “efforts and achievements in conserving resources”. If you truly wanted to conserve resources, give your 0% loans and bonuses to renewable energy companies.

Vicky Linsalata  
Citizen's Climate Lobby  
Austin, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

My name is Vicky Linsalata and I live in Wells Branch, Texas. I'm a constituent of Rep. James Talarico in House District 50.

I appreciate the legislature’s efforts to improve our electric grid reliability. However, this bill as written conflicts with key principles I support because it doesn’t consider the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it would likely increase costs to consumers, and it inserts competitive barriers by excluding energy storage.

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology neutral and be required to have zero CO2 emissions when generating electricity. This could be accomplished by zero emissions resources or by including carbon capture and storage on plants that would capture and store at least 90% of CO2 emissions.

The program should also support 21st century solutions such as Virtual Power Plants (VPP) which a recent study showed can provide the needed reliability at lower costs than continuing to add 20th century generation. See this May 5, 2023 article - “VPPs provide same resource adequacy as gas peakers, large batteries at up to 60% less cost: study” ([www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t](http://www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t))

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because I want the generations that follow me to be able to live a good life and that requires a healthy ecosystem.

Robert Jones, Mr  
self / Citizens' Climate Education & Lobby  
Conroe, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

My name is Robert L. Jones. My family resides in Conroe, TX. We are constituents of Rep. Cecil Bell, District 3. I have been involved with power generation and energy for over 40 years and I am a volunteer with Citizens' Climate Education & Lobby, a non-partisan, non-profit organization concerned about the environment and climate change.

We need to improve our electric grid reliability. However, SB 2627, as written, does not consider the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and it would try to pick winners and losers in the power generation industry by excluding energy storage. Why would we want to discourage investment in the growing renewables and energy storage industries, especially when Texas leads the nation in renewable??

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology neutral and be required to have zero CO2 emissions when generating electricity. This could be accomplished by zero emissions resources or by including carbon capture and storage on plants that would capture and store at least 90% of CO2 emissions.

The program should also support 21st century solutions such as Virtual Power Plants (VPP) which a recent study showed can provide the needed reliability at lower costs than continuing to add 20th century generation. See this May 5, 2023 article - "VPPs provide same resource adequacy as gas peakers, large batteries at up to 60% less cost: study" ([www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t](http://www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t)).

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide these comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

Hamilton Richards  
Citizens' Climate Lobby / volunteer  
Austin, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in opposition to SB 2627 as it is currently written.

My name is Hamilton Richards, and I live in Austin. A resident of House District 47, I am a constituent of Rep. Vicki Goodwin. I am a volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit organization Citizens' Climate Lobby.

The legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid's reliability are laudable, but this bill as currently written conflicts with key principles I support because

- it neglects the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- it would likely increase costs to consumers.
- it erects barriers to competition by excluding energy storage.

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology neutral and should require electric power generation to emit no CO2. This could be accomplished by employing zero-emission resources or by fitting gas-powered plants with equipment that would capture and store at least 90% of their CO2 emissions.

The program should also support 21st-century solutions such as Virtual Power Plants (VPP), which a recent study showed can provide the needed reliability at lower costs than continuing to add 20th-century generation technology. See the May 5, 2023 article, "VPPs provide same resource adequacy as gas peakers, large batteries at up to 60% less cost: study" ([www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t](http://www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t)).

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because the world in which my granddaughter, and everybody's grandkids, will live is severely threatened by the climate disruption being caused by those emissions.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in opposition to SB 2627 as it is currently written.

Thomas Wikman  
Citizens Climate Lobby volunteer  
Dallas, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

My name is Thomas Wikman, I live in Dallas, Texas, 75230, and I am constituent and voter in the districts of Rep. Morgan Meyer (District 108) and Senator Nathan Johnson (District 16). I am a volunteer with Citizens Climate Lobby, a non-partisan, non-profit, volunteer driven organization concerned with reducing carbon emissions.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability. However, this bill as written conflicts with key principles I support because it doesn't consider the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it would likely increase costs to consumers, and it inserts competitive barriers by excluding energy storage.

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology neutral and be required to have zero CO2 emissions when generating electricity. This could be accomplished by zero emissions resources or by including carbon capture and storage on plants that would capture and store at least 90% of CO2 emissions.

The program should also support 21st century solutions such as Virtual Power Plants (VPP) which a recent study showed can provide the needed reliability at lower costs than continuing to add 20th century generation. See this May 5, 2023 article - "VPPs provide same resource adequacy as gas peakers, large batteries at up to 60% less cost: study" ([www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t](http://www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t))

Climate action and reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because I have observed the effects climate change, which are obvious in northern Sweden where I originally am from, and I am concerned about future generations including my children.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

Ann Drumm  
Volunteer for Citizens Climate Lobby  
Dallas, TX

I live in Dallas in HD 108, Rep. Morgan Meyer's district, and I am a volunteer with the national nonpartisan organization Citizens' Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability. However, this bill as written has serious problems that should be addressed: it doesn't consider the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and it inserts competitive barriers by excluding energy storage.

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology-neutral and require that the electricity generated be free of CO2 emissions. This could be accomplished by zero emissions resources or by including carbon capture and storage on plants that would capture and store at least 90% of CO2 emissions.

Thank you.

John Ulreich  
Citizens Climate Lobby volunteer  
Georgetown, TX  
Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

My name is John Ulreich and I live at 749 Armstrong Dr, Georgetown, Texas. I am a constituent of Representative Terry Wilson in House District 20, 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. However, this bill does not address the need to increase the dispersal of existing power to the electrical grid. This bill as written conflicts with key principles I support because it doesn't consider the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it would likely increase costs to consumers due to more bureaucracy and associated costs, and it inserts competitive barriers by excluding energy storage.

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology neutral and be required to have zero CO2 emissions when generating electricity. This could be accomplished by zero emissions resources or by including carbon capture and storage on plants that would capture and store at least 90% of CO2 emissions.

The program should also support 21st century solutions such as Virtual Power Plants (VPP) which a recent study showed can provide the needed reliability at lower costs than continuing to add 20th century generation. See this May 5, 2023 article - "VPPs provide same resource adequacy as gas peakers, large batteries at up to 60% less cost: study"

([www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t](http://www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t))

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because of the adverse health effects it has on our citizens regardless of political party. The effects also have a negative impact on family economics. The alternate suggestions made above will have a positive impact on our state's economy by increasing the number of jobs in the energy sector by adding renewable sources and making our grid more resilient.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

John Ulreich

Rebekah Adams  
Myself  
MCKINNEY, TX

Considering our size, population, and expected growth, Texas needs to be prepared to provide electricity to support it's citizens and infrastructure. Please support SB 2627 out of Committee and into law. Thank you.

Martha Adams  
Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteer  
Austin, TX  
Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

My name is Martha Susan Adams and I am a resident of Austin and a constituent of Representative Hinojosa in House District 49 and I work with the non-partisan non-profit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I agree with the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability. However, this bill as written does not address these goals in a way that protects consumers from increased costs and decreases greenhouse gas pollution that is both bad for the health of Texas citizens now and the future of Texas citizens, including my children. Plus, it exclude energy storage, creating a competitive barrier and favoring one industry over another in a way that seems at odds with limited government overreach.

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology neutral and be required to have zero CO2 emissions when generating electricity. This could be accomplished by zero emissions resources or by including carbon capture and storage on plants that would capture and store at least 90% of CO2 emissions.

The program should also support 21st century solutions such as Virtual Power Plants (VPP), which a recent study showed can provide the needed reliability at lower costs. Instead, you're going backwards in continuing to add 20th century fossil gas generation, effectively throwing away Texas's competitive advantage when it comes to wind and solar projects.. See this May 5, 2023 article - "VPPs provide same resource adequacy as gas peakers, large batteries at up to 60% less cost: study"(www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t).

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because I love Galveston. But a recent study from several places, including Texas State University, projects a sea level rise of a foot by 2050, when my daughters are in their 40s. This will be devastating to that city, and put them at even bigger risk of flooding and destructions with hurricanes (<https://www.meadowscenter.txst.edu/ClimateChange/ClimateDashboard/SeaLevelRise.html>). By pretending this crisis isn't happening, we are doing a massive disservice to our children and grandchildren. Especially when Texas is sitting on a gold mine of low carbon emissions energy sources, energy sources that will reduce costs for consumers, not increase them!

Thanks again for taking the time to read my comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

Kind regards,

Martha Susan Adams

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

I am a longtime resident of Lubbock and a constituent of Rep. Carl Tepper in House District 84. I urge the defeat of SB 2627. This bill as written fails on several points. It doesn't consider the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it would likely increase costs to consumers, and it inserts competitive barriers by excluding energy storage.

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology neutral and be required to have zero CO2 emissions when generating electricity. This could be accomplished by seeking zero emissions resources or by including carbon capture and storage on plants that would capture and store at least 90% of CO2 emissions.

SB 2627 misses a great opportunity by disregarding energy efficiency, which would lower the total consumption of energy to the benefit of all consumers.

Reduction of greenhouse gases could be promoted by engaging zero emission resources.

I am concerned about greenhouse gas emissions because they threaten the lives of all of us and the lives of our descendants.

Susn Meredith

self, CEO of MentaMorph Inc.

Austin, TX

I appreciate the focus to ensure sufficient energy supply is available to meet demand without interruption but this doesn't do it effectively. It appears to assume that a market-driven approach will not drive the energy generation needed. Criteria for assessing this bill is highlighted with recommendations for each criterion.

### COST TO CONSUMERS

It's unclear why Texans need to subsidize Maintenance and Modernization of existing generating facilities as defined in Sec 34.0103. If this is for winterizing, specify that.

Energy storage has cost benefits at multiple points in the energy landscape:

- 1) for grid operations for load balancing eliminating the need for peaker power plants that produce very expensive power.
- 2) Enabling less expensive non-dispatchable sources to become dispatchable.
- 3) At large commercial and industrial energy users for load shifting from peak hours reducing the daily peak demand requirements on the grid.

There is a financial benefit to generation that can come online quicker. Include Timing in evaluating projects.

Expert testimony on 5/3 said we don't have a supply problem; we have an operational problem.

\*\*\* The bill requires amendments described above to meet criteria of Cost to Consumers and ONLY IF it is accepted that a market-driven approach won't drive the energy generation we need.

### RELIABILITY

Energy storage is beneficial no matter how the energy is generated. Storage must be included to rate high on Reliability.

### EMISSIONS

Emissions need to be added as a criteria for projects. For instance, carbon capture should be required on fossil fuel projects to make it eligible.

\*\*\* SB 2627 ranks extremely low on Emissions without including it as a criteria of evaluation by the Commission.

### OPPORTUNITY

Funding 100 Megawatt generation facilities will create jobs in concentrated areas but unnecessarily limits projects, especially possibilities in rural areas.

New technologies will continue to evolve in the next several years. Investment is needed to develop efficient operations, reach economies of scale. Established technologies should be able to stand on their own. If new energy generation truly needs to be subsidized, keep this in mind when considering technologies that qualify for this bill.

\*\*\* SB2627 rates high for pockets of Opportunity but low for others. Change the 100 Megawatt requirement to allow projects across Texas. Empower the Commission to make decisions.

### TEXAS ENERGY LEADERSHIP

This bill will affect the next several years of development. If Texas is to maintain its leadership position in energy, we must look towards 21st Century technologies. Many skills will adapt well to new technologies, such as drilling for geothermal and hydrogen production and distribution that have similarities to fossil fuel sources.

\*\*\* SB2627 rates low on Texas leadership if it does not allow for new technologies.

### CONCLUSION

No to SB2627 as written. Amendments are critical.

Mitchell Kobus  
Citizens Climate Lobby volunteer  
Plano, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written. 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. However, this bill as written conflicts with key principles I support because it doesn't consider the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it would likely increase costs to consumers, and it inserts competitive barriers by excluding energy storage. 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 environmental degradations and depredations we have already committed in our abject worship of fossil fuels and the monetary rewards that they heap upon the few, at the expense of all. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide these comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

Cynthia Lesky  
Citizens' Climate Lobby  
Austin, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

My name is Cynthia Lesky. I live in Austin TX in House District 49 where I am represented by Gina Hinojosa. I am a volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit Citizens' Climate Lobby.

The legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability is needed and appreciated. But the competitive barriers in favor of fossil fuels set-up by this legislation is contrary to Texas' reputation for being a business-friendly state. Further, and more importantly, its failure to address greenhouse gas emissions is a betrayal of our children and grandchildren, and it would likely increase costs to consumers.

SB 2627 and similar legislation should be technology neutral and favor reduction of CO2 emissions when generating electricity. The two goals are not incompatible. The solution to the first goal is obvious and demonstrably possible. The second goal could be accomplished by requiring carbon capture and storage on natural gas plants that would capture and store CO2 emissions.

I know that fair capitalism is the best economic system. I also believe that it can be deployed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions so that the future of humanity on a planet Earth that is livable, beautiful, and technologically progressive is possible. Putting a heavy thumb on the scale to support fossil fuels will not achieve that future.

SB 2627 is wrong as currently written.

Frank Huddleston  
Citizens Climate Lobby volunteer  
San Antonio, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

I am Frank Huddleston, a resident of San Antonio, Texas. I am a constituent of Representative Diego Bernal in House District 123, and am a volunteer with the non-partisan, non-profit organization Citizen's Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability. However, this bill as written conflicts with key principles I support because it doesn't consider the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it would likely increase costs to consumers, and it inserts competitive barriers by excluding energy storage.

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology neutral and be required to have zero CO2 emissions when generating electricity. This could be accomplished by zero emissions resources or by including carbon capture and storage on plants that would capture and store at least 90% of CO2 emissions.

The program should also support 21st century solutions such as Virtual Power Plants (VPP) which a recent study showed can provide the needed reliability at lower costs than continuing to add 20th century generation. See this May 5, 2023 article - "VPPs provide same resource adequacy as gas peakers, large batteries at up to 60% less cost: study"(www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t)

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because, well: 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 restricting our use of fossil fuels is one of the most important ways we can do that. I don't think the short-term gains are worth the longer-term costs.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

Monica McCrory  
Rep Precinct 396 Chair  
Georgetown, TX

Funding mechanisms to support construction, maintenance, and modernization of dispatchable electric generating facilities, after having had multiple POWER FAILURES

MONICA E MCCRORY

Rep Precinct 396 Chair  
Georgetown, TX

Funding mechanisms to support the construction, maintenance, and modernization of dispatchable electric generating facilities, after the POWER FAILURES we've seen in recent years, is one of basic responsibilities of government. We can no longer afford to kick the can down the road or rely on UNreliable energy sources.

Peter Bryn  
Eolic Green Ammonia  
New Caney, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

Eolic Green Ammonia (EGA) is a green ammonia developer and producer. EGA will require significant zero-emission power sourced from renewables, nuclear, battery energy storage, and future zero emission sources (e.g. geothermal).

EGA appreciates the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability. However, this bill as written conflicts with our key principles as it doesn't consider the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and it will likely increase costs to consumers including industries like ours.

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology neutral and be required to have zero CO2 emissions when generating electricity. This could be accomplished by zero emissions resources or by including carbon capture and storage on plants that would capture and store at least 90% of CO2 emissions.

EGA urges the legislature to consider opportunities to both improve grid reliability while reducing emissions.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

peter.bryn@eolic.us

Cheryl Clark  
Citizens Climate Lobby volunteer  
Oak Point, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit written comments regarding current legislation. I am writing to share my opposition to SB 2627.

I live in Oak Point, TX, and I am constituent of Representative Hayes in District 57 and Senator Parker in District 12. I am a volunteer with the nonpartisan, nonprofit organization Citizens' Climate Lobby. Our purpose is to support smart policy for the future that keeps our economy strong and creates a livable world for our citizens.

I understand and appreciate our Texas legislators' work to improve the reliability of our electric grid, but I disagree with SB 2627 in its current form. The bill ignores the need to lower greenhouse gas pollution, it will increase consumer costs, and it stymies competition by excluding energy storage as one solution to increase grid reliability.

I support legislation instead that is technology neutral and does not cause carbon dioxide pollution. These goals can be met by utilizing zero emissions sources and carbon capture and storage technology.

A recent simulation run by the Brattle Group, a financial consulting agency, found that using Virtual Power Plants (VPP) is 40% to 60% less expensive than relying on gas peaker plants. VPPs are "distributed energy resource portfolios that include technologies such as rooftop solar panels, smart thermostats, smart water heaters, electric vehicles, and distributed batteries, which are actively controlled by utilities." VPPs use smart technology to save money. Please refer to this article: "VPPs Provide Same Resource Adequacy as Gas Peakers, Large Batteries, at up to 60% Less Cost: Study" (<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t/649570/>).

We need to reduce greenhouse gas pollution because we are experiencing more and more billion dollar disasters every year, and these are exacerbated by a warming climate. I would like to raise my daughter in this part of the world near our family rather than having to flee to a northern state in order to keep her safe.

Again, thank you for allowing citizens like me to weigh in on this important issue.

Kelsey Balaban  
Citizens Climate Lobby  
Austin, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

My name is Kelsey Balaban and I live in Austin. I'm a constituent of Rep. Gina Hinojosa in House District 49 and a volunteer with the nonpartisan nonprofit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability. However, this bill as written conflicts with key principles I support because it doesn't consider the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it would likely increase costs to consumers, and it inserts competitive barriers by excluding energy storage.

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology neutral and be required to have zero CO2 emissions when generating electricity. This could be accomplished by zero emissions resources or by including carbon capture and storage on plants that would capture and store at least 90% of CO2 emissions.

The program should also support 21st century solutions such as Virtual Power Plants (VPP) which a recent study showed can provide the needed reliability at lower costs than continuing to add 20th century generation. See this May 5, 2023 article - "VPPs provide same resource adequacy as gas peakers, large batteries at up to 60% less cost: study" ([www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t](http://www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t))

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because I want Texas to continue to be a livable place as the effects of climate change continue to become clear. Texas is already a leader in the renewable energy sector and can continue to have an outsized positive impact on how we clean up our air and power sources, if we pass supportive legislation.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

Sincerely,  
Kelsey Balaban

ALEX ROBINSON, SB 2627

self, social worker  
Austin, TX

Please pass this bill!

Brian Fitzgerald  
Self  
Nacogdoches, TX

Please Do Not let this bill out of committee.

Marilyn Harris  
Self Retired  
Sanger, TX

This is so important! Is there anyone in Texas who doesn't use electricity? Then this bill must pass to secure our electric power!  
Thank you!  
Danny & Marilyn Harris  
Sanger, TX

Susan Gillette

Citizens' Climate Lobby, Lubbock Chapter

Lubbock, TX

My name is Susan Gillette from Lubbock. I am a volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby. Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in opposition to SB 2627.

This bill is an attempt at making sure Texas has enough energy to meet our needs in times of crisis, and I support the cause. I oppose this particular measure for the following reasons.

There are many people in Texas who are struggling to pay their energy bills as it is. The cost of this proposal would make that problem even bigger.

SB 2627 highly favors fossil fuel generation when our solutions should be energy source neutral. The Texas energy market was built on competition to produce the lowest cost energy. Wind and solar energy now cost less than thermal. This bill will change the market structure with an unfair bias for oil and gas production with consumers ultimately picking up the tab.

If we want to increase our ability to produce energy, we should be looking at all solutions, not just more thermal generation. Here is a list of suggestions that would build the security of the grid, cost a lot less and generate far less GHG emissions.

- Use batteries and other energy storage technology.
- Reducing our demand with efficiency measures.
- Use distributed energy sources such as local wind and solar with storage backups including EV batteries.
- Use other energy resources such as geothermal.
- Fix the transmission problems that leaves energy stranded in west Texas.
- Connect the ERCOT grid to the Eastern and/or Western Interchanges so we could draw on those resources when we need them. That also gives us a market for our abundant energy resources.

Finally, we need to consider greenhouse gas emission. The fossil fuel industry is still allowed to pollute our water, land, and air without monetary consequences. We are paying for it not only with our wallets, but with our lives and our health. Oil and gas production increases our emissions in times when we need to decrease it for the sake of future generations, yours and mine. We all want to pass certain things on to our kids, like a good education, our values and our wealth. The most important thing we can give them is a clean environment, free from the most severe effects of our changing climate. What we do now counts not only for our lifetime, but for all those who come after us. That is a big responsibility that we should not take lightly.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Jessica Eubanks, Ms  
Citizens Climate Lobby volunteer  
Austin, TX  
Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written. I live in South Austin and am a constituent of Representative Donna Howard in House District 48 and am a volunteer with the non-partisan non-profit organization Citizens Climate Lobby.

I always appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability. However, I oppose this bill as currently written because it doesn't consider the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, would likely increase costs to consumers, and it inserts competitive barriers by excluding energy storage.

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology neutral and be required to have zero CO2 emissions when generating electricity. This could be accomplished by zero emissions resources or by including carbon capture and storage on plants that would capture and store at least 90% of CO2 emissions.

The program should also support 21st century solutions such as Virtual Power Plants (VPP) which a recent study showed can provide the needed reliability at lower costs than continuing to add 20th century generation.

I strongly believe it is beneficial (vital, even) to the long term health of our economy, society, and ecosystem to make all of these decisions with the understanding that reducing greenhouse gas emissions is imperative.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

Bruce Naylor  
Unified Geometry  
Austin, TX

My political perspective is Scientific Rationalism, which is what most of the great thinkers of the Enlightenment were, including many of the founders of America.

Professionally, I am a Computer Scientist. I have held positions at U.T. Austin, Georgia Tech, AT&T Bell Labs and DeVry U. I lead a startup, Unified Geometry, which has been working on applying Computer Vision algorithms, a sub-field of Artificial Intelligence, for automating inspection of building envelopes to discover thermal leaks as a key step in retrofitting buildings. Improving energy efficiency and protecting against water damage are primary objectives. These are also bi-partisan values.

As we all know, Winter Storm URI caused extensive property damage, pain and suffering, and loss of 246 lives due to power outages. We believe that much of this could have been avoided IF the EPCOT grid had been redesigned according to concepts recently developed by the Building Technology Office of the Department of Energy.

<https://www.energy.gov/lpo/articles/introducing-vppieces-bite-sized-blogs-about-virtual-power-plants>

Two key concepts are Distributed Energy Resources and Virtual Power Plants (VPP). DER's are anyone of a variety of electronic devices that receive and/or generate electricity. Examples of DER's are roof-top-solar panels, battery packs, and EV's. Electricity can flow both in to and out of a DER device. These can be collected into modules comprised of large numbers of individual devices. Multiple modules can in turn be organized into a Virtual Power Plant with the addition of special purpose software. The VPP control software can monitor the real-time performance of the array of devices and use the information collected to modulate individual devices to achieve targeted performance objectives. Large numbers of DER devices can be organized into synchronous units that serve as the modules of the Virtual Power Plants. Global optimization is achievable across multiple modules (using machine learning). Monetary compensation for each user is computed and returned to the users account. During summer of 2022, California did just that.

<https://rmi.org/clean-energy-101-virtual-power-plants/>

<https://www.iea.org/reports/unlocking-the-potential-of-distributed-energy-resources/executive-summary>

Kerry Yarbrough  
Texas Eagle Forum  
Garland, TX

Support making electric grid more efficient to increase electricity to meet increased demand

Diane Edwards  
Self  
San Antonio, TX

After living through the winter of 2020-2021 and losing the confidence of our communities and losing face nationally we must, must take proactive measures to ensure this does not happen again. We are still experiencing a great influx to the state - we need to address now

Larry Linenschmidt

Self

Austin, TX

I am a theologically conservative Christian and a politically conservative voter.

I appreciate your efforts to provide affordable, reliable energy. Thank you for your research and insightful questions during the hearing on May 03.

I am opposed to this bill as written. If additional technologies are added to the projects which may be financed by "The Fund" which is provided for in this bill, it will be enhanced and helpful to the citizens of Texas.

There are multiple ways to address the issues of affordability, reliability, and clean air. Let's incorporate more technologies in the types of projects which may be financed by "The Fund."

Let's start with transmission lines. During Winter Storm Uri, 5,000 megawatts of electric power were lost to the grid because of congestion. We continue to lose energy produced from a variety of sources because of inadequate transmission. Would you please focus on having ERCOT modify their approval process for new transmission lines? Their system isn't working and is hampering the reliability of the grid and will eventually force new generation to be placed in other states rather than Texas. Without new generation, we will be unable to sustain the Texas Economic Miracle. Financing from "The Fund" for transmission lines would expedite installation.

Energy storage is growing and is dispatchable, and it is excluded in this bill as written. An article from S&P Global, "Battery stampede spurs sunny storage economics in ERCOT," 20230503, reports - 2.2 GW of large-scale battery storage is operating in Texas now and there are plans for an additional 29.2 GW to come online by the end of the 2020s. The pipeline consists of 13 GW of stand-alone capacity and 16.2 GW of co-located storage systems, of which 97% are to be paired with a solar project.

Please add energy storage to the projects which may be financed by "The Fund" to increase dispatchable energy stored and used as needed. Energy storage is helpful now, and will contribute even more significantly to the reliability and manageability of the grid, with financing from "The Fund",

Energy efficiency is a way to reduce demand, care for the poor, and provide warmer homes in extreme cold due to better insulation. Please add energy efficiency to the projects which can be financed by "The Fund."

Distributed energy will provide many new sources of energy generation, including the potential of virtually every rooftop in Texas, both residential and commercial, to be sources of power, for that building and for the grid. Please add distributed energy to the projects which may be financed by "The Fund."

Thank you again.

Larry L. Linenschmidt, Executive Director

Hill Country Institute

Host, Hill Country Institute Live: Exploring Christ & Culture - Radio Program and Podcast

Partner, Evangelical Environmental Network

Christine Lange, Mrs

Independent Christian values

Temple, TX

All forms of infrastructure and energy facilities should be updated and modernized

Fred Shannon  
Hunt Energy Network  
Austin, TX

Hunt Energy Network proposes a modification to allow for a portfolio of dispatchable generation facilities totaling at least 100 MW to also apply for a single loan, provided that all generation facilities within the portfolio are stand alone, dispatchable resources fully dedicated to providing all the energy produced from the projects into the ERCOT grid.

Rationale for the proposed change:

**SAME AMOUNT OF ENERGY AVAILABLE TO ERCOT:** Under our proposed change, only those portfolios of dispatchable resources that are dedicated to providing energy and ancillary services to the ERCOT grid would qualify. The only difference between a portfolio of resources totaling 100 MW and a single 100 MW resource is the size and location of each facility.

**RESILIENCY AND RELIABILITY:** A portfolio of resources that are sited in different locations, but total 100 MW creates a more resilient resource than a single 100 MW facility. If a single 100 MW site experiences a maintenance outage, or equipment failure, or a transmission or distribution outage occurs preventing delivery of power, then all 100 MW becomes unavailable to the grid. However, if there are five 20 MW sites and one or two experience an outage then the remaining MWs are still operational and providing energy. The portfolio approach eliminates the single point of failure.

**DISTRIBUTED DIVERSITY:** The reliability and resiliency of the ERCOT grid can be enhanced by having a diverse portfolio of dispatchable resources, located across the ERCOT grid. This is helpful in the event of natural disaster that may impact one portion of the ERCOT grid more severely than another area. Having resources distributed throughout the ERCOT region enhances the reliability of the grid.

Important note... this change does not mean that these proposals are accepted, rather each proposal must be evaluated by the Commission using the same criteria applied to the sites with 100 MW at one location, as set forth under Section 34.0104(c).

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

My Name is 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. However, this bill as written conflicts with key principles I support because it doesn't consider the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it would likely increase costs to consumers, and it inserts competitive barriers by excluding energy storage.

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology neutral and be required to have zero CO2 emissions when generating electricity. This could be accomplished by zero emissions resources or by including carbon capture and storage on plants that would capture and store at least 90% of CO2 emissions.

The program should also support 21st century solutions such Virtual Power Plants (VPP) which a recent study showed can provide the needed reliability at lower costs than continuing to add 20th century generation. See this May 5, 2023 article - "VPPs provide same resource adequacy as gas peakers, large batteries at up to 60% less cost: study" ([www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t](http://www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t))

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because I am concerned about the worsening impacts of increased emissions on health of my children and grand children.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

Bill Hurley  
Citizens Climate Lobby  
San Antonio, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

My name is Bill Hurley, a member of the Citizens Climate Lobby and I live in San Antonio at 11811 Mill Pond, SAT 78230. My House District is 123 and Diego Bernal represents it.

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability. However, this bill as written conflicts with key principles I support because it doesn't consider the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it would likely increase costs to consumers, and it inserts competitive barriers by excluding energy storage.

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology neutral and be required to have zero CO2 emissions when generating electricity. This could be accomplished by zero emissions resources or by including carbon capture and storage on plants that would capture and store at least 90% of CO2 emissions.

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Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because while they worked well in the past when the sources were few (to moderate), the population worldwide has grown and with it, more sources that lead to deadly effects to our atmosphere.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

Paul Gonin, Mr.  
Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteer  
Georgetown, TX

Committee Chair and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

My name is Paul Gonin. 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. However, this bill as written conflicts with key principles I support because it doesn't consider the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it would likely increase costs to consumers, and it inserts competitive barriers by excluding energy storage.

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology neutral and be required to have zero CO2 emissions when generating electricity. This could be accomplished by zero emissions resources or by including carbon capture and storage on plants that would capture and store at least 90% of CO2 emissions.

The program should also support 21st century solutions such Virtual Power Plants (VPP) which a recent study showed can provide the needed reliability at lower costs than continuing to add 20th century generation. See this May 5, 2023 article - "VPPs provide same resource adequacy as gas peakers, large batteries at up to 60% less cost: study" ([www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t](http://www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t))

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because we need to reduce the future impacts of climate change. Failure to do this will have catastrophic effects on human and all other life on our planet.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

Daniel Burns  
Citizens Climate Lobby volunteer  
Spring, TX

Committee Chair Schwertner and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

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

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability. However, this bill as written conflicts with key principles I support because it doesn't consider the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it would likely increase costs to consumers, and it inserts competitive barriers by excluding energy storage.

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology neutral and be required to have zero CO2 emissions when generating electricity. This could be accomplished by zero emissions resources or by including carbon capture and storage on plants that would capture and store at least 90% of CO2 emissions.

The program should also support 21st century solutions such Virtual Power Plants (VPP) which a recent study showed can provide the needed reliability at lower costs than continuing to add 20th century generation. See this May 5, 2023 article - "VPPs provide same resource adequacy as gas peakers, large batteries at up to 60% less cost: study" ([www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t](http://www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t))

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because I would like to leave a better environment and a livable planet for my grandchildren to inherit.

Thanks again for the opportunity to provide these comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

Sincerely,

Daniel Burns  
17711 Seven Pines Dr.  
Spring, Tx 77379

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 opposition to SB 2627 as currently written. I am submitting these comments on behalf of myself and my four grandchildren.

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. However, this bill as written conflicts with key principles I support because it doesn't consider the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it would likely increase costs to consumers, and it inserts competitive barriers by excluding energy storage.

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology neutral and be required to have zero CO2 emissions when generating electricity. This could be accomplished by zero emissions resources or by including carbon capture and storage on plants that would capture and store at least 90% of CO2 emissions.

The program should also support 21st century solutions such as Virtual Power Plants (VPP) which a recent study showed can provide the needed reliability at lower costs than continuing to add 20th century generation. See this May 5, 2023 article - "VPPs provide same resource adequacy as gas peakers, large batteries at up to 60% less cost: study" ([www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t](http://www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t))

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 opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.

Kabyn Vikesland

Citizens Climate Lobby

Helotes, TX

I appreciate the legislature's efforts to improve our electric grid reliability. However, this bill as written conflicts with key principles I support because it doesn't consider the need for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it would likely increase costs to consumers, and it inserts competitive barriers by excluding energy storage.

A program created by legislation such as SB 2627 should be technology neutral and be required to have zero CO2 emissions when generating electricity. This could be accomplished by zero emissions resources or by including carbon capture and storage on plants that would capture and store at least 90% of CO2 emissions.

The program should also support 21st century solutions such as Virtual Power Plants (VPP) which a recent study showed can provide the needed reliability at lower costs than continuing to add 20th century generation. See this May 5, 2023 article - "VPPs provide same resource adequacy as gas peakers, large batteries at up to 60% less cost: study" ([www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t](http://www.utilitydive.com/news/vpps-provide-same-resource-adequacy-as-gas-peakers-large-batteries-at-up-t))

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important to me because, as a father and a teacher, I am deeply concerned about the legacy we leave for my children and students. Further degrading our planet is a disservice to our children and an affront our Creator.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in opposition to SB 2627 as currently written.