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Date

Texas Sunset Advisory Commissioners

*The Honorable Glenn Hegar, Jr., The Honorable Dennis Bonnen, The Honorable Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, The Honorable Joan Huffman, The Honorable Robert Nichols, The Honorable John Whitmire, The Honorable Rafael Anchia, The Honorable Byron Cook, The Honorable Linda Harper-Brown, The Honorable Carl Isett, Mr. Charles McMahan, and Mr. Lamont Jefferson - members*

Texas Sunset Advisory Commission

PO Box 13066

Austin, TX 78711

Dear Commissioners;

I am writing to request the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission recommend the following changes to the Texas Public Utility Commission that would change the purpose of the agency from enhancing competition to lowering costs and protecting consumers by:

- Strengthening enforcement by ensuring complaints are investigated and wrongdoers are put out of business. Increase the certainty of punishment and ensure punishments are effective deterrents by adopting treble damages as a standard. Standardize fines for common abuses and allow the PUC commissioners to issue emergency orders.
- Increasing consumer protections by ensuring the funding collected for low-income Texans goes to assist them and not to balancing the budget by creating an off-budget funding mechanism similar to the energy efficiency fund collected and administered by the transmission and distribution utilities
- Strengthening energy efficiency efforts by creating an independent stand alone efficiency agency to combine the small programs in many state agencies while improving accountability and transparency. Set a goal to reduce energy consumed by 1% per year and ensure all energy efficiency measures are counted in the ERCOT's long term demand forecast
- Setting better rules for renewable energy by setting a goal of 5,000 MW of non-wind by 2025 coupled with 20% of the states energy come from renewables by 2025. Support the production of renewables by allowing for interconnection to the rest of the national grid through DC ties.
- Promoting the development of energy storage to stabilize renewable energy sources by modifying PUC transmission rules to require storage analysis and allowing storage to be used as an ancillary service
- Creating fair and equitable net metering rules that ensure consumers get paid full value for excess energy they produce and by establishing standards for contracts across providers.
- Establishing rules for transmission and power plant sighting that require land suitability certificates for major new energy projects, establishing guidelines and

procedures for transmission lines to favor routes that avoid important scenic and natural areas.

- Ensuring advanced meters and demand response systems being deployed provide the full range of technological capability currently available, and that ERCOT utilizes consumer demand response programs.
- Reforming ERCOT to ensure the board is all public members and that dispatch is executed in ways that lower consumer and environmental costs.
- Preserving the Office of Public Utility Counsel (OPUC) and considering giving them enforcement duties.
- Considering the impacts of Federal environmental and regulatory initiatives in all rulemaking. Specifically, by taking under advisement, ozone and mercury standards, global warming impacts and environmental dispatch issues

I urge you to make recommendations that would make the Texas Public Utility Commission a state agency I can depend upon to help protect my interests as a citizen of the state of Texas and as a consumer of the essential services they oversee.

Thank you for the important work you do in reviewing state agencies that impact the lives of each and every one of us.

Sincerely,

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Signature

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Name (printed)

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Address

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City/State/Zip

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Phone Number

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Email Address