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The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

The Honorable Dustin Burrows
Speaker of the House
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

The Honorable Dan Patrick
Lieutenant Governor
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott, Lt. Gov. Patrick, and Speaker Burrows,

We, the undersigned, call on you to provide relief from high utility bills that burden Texas families, invest in modernizing our electric grid, weatherize homes, and compensate Texans who conserve energy the same way large corporations are paid to use less electricity during tight grid conditions.

Electricity bills are still too high. According to a 2024 market survey, electric customers who were planning to switch retail electric providers were paying an average of \$303 per month. Despite the addition of thousands of megawatts of new power sources, Texans remain vulnerable to the high utility bills driven by record temperatures and extreme weather. Instead of forcing taxpayers to subsidize the cost of building expensive climate polluting power plants, we urge you and the Texas Legislature to invest in the lowest-cost, most-effective solutions to our grid challenges: energy efficiency and conservation.

Solutions that center Texas families and small businesses, like home and small business weatherization, insulation, and window upgrades can stabilize the grid, help control the cost of electricity by reducing demand, and make it easier for Texans to stay cool in the summer or warm in the winter inside their homes and local stores. Investments in weatherization and energy efficiency can help create much-needed, family supporting local jobs in communities throughout our state. Specifically, we ask that you:

- **Raise the statewide goal for energy efficiency to match 1% of utility sales.** Some estimates suggest we could have reduced the extra energy demand of Winter Storm Uri in 2021 by half if we had a 1% goal in place. Texas has not raised its goals for energy efficiency in more than 14 years. Now is the time to update the goal.
- Prioritize conservation and **ensure an adequate portion of the Texas Energy Fund is properly allocated to invest in a modern electric grid by developing regional microgrids and battery backup systems** that empower communities to meet their own energy needs. By expanding the use of local clean energy and battery storage resources, Texans can benefit from fast, reliable, pollution-free backup power.
- Pass legislation to financially **compensate Texans the same way large corporations are compensated to use less electricity when ERCOT makes energy conservation calls.** Entities like crypto miners and data centers are financially reimbursed when they ramp down their operations. Texas families get no such compensation for conserving energy. By compensating Texas families, we would encourage more conservation when grid conditions get tight, lower bills, and reduce reliance on polluting power plants.
- **Oppose policies that make it harder to develop solar power, wind power, and energy storage.** These resources have helped keep electricity prices lower during peak demand and our grid more reliable, especially during hot summer afternoons.

- **Pass legislation to assist low income families whose electric utility bills represent more than 10% of their monthly income through payment assistance and weatherization.**
- **Implement programs for the \$689 million approved by the U.S. Department of Energy for home weatherization and appliance rebates through the State Energy Conservation Office.**
- **Create a Texas Energy Efficiency Council**, a collaboration of state agencies as well as public and private utilities and other stakeholders, to collaborate on energy efficiency funding and programs.
- **Raise state minimum building codes** including energy codes so that new construction in Texas is resilient, energy efficient, and more uniform across jurisdictions.
- **Create a fortified roof grant program** for homeowners to better protect Texans from hurricanes, hail and extreme weather.

Recent data from this year’s Winter Storm Enzo, a comparatively mild cold snap during the week of January 20, 2025, indicated that we had plenty of power to meet demand when temperatures dipped into the low 20s for much of the state. Demand peaked at 77,739 megawatts. If Enzo had been as cold as Uri, demand could have reached 97,541 megawatts, and with the total capacity of power plants at that time at 100,400 megawatts, we would have been dangerously close to brownouts. We cannot solely rely on power plants that will take years to build. The solutions outlined above, can be implemented much faster than it would take to build new polluting power plants.

Texas used to be a top-ranked state in energy efficiency, but we have sunk to 36th nationwide, according to the [American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy](#)—last place among states with these standards. If we claim to be a state that is friendly to local business, a leader in innovation, and supportive of Texas families with financial burdens, then energy efficiency should be at the top of your agenda.

Thank you for giving your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Sierra Club Lone Star Chapter	Border Workers United	Central Texas Building Trades	Progress Texas
TEPRI (Texas Energy Poverty Research Institute)	Southwest Laborers District Council	UA Local 529	MOVE Texas Civic Fund
Texas Impact	Mi Familia En Acción	Texas Rising Action	Asian Texans for Justice
Greenfaith	IBEW Local 520 (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers)	United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers Local 123	Southwest Workers Union
Texas Climate Jobs Project	Commission Shift	Green Workforce Collaborative	Port Arthur Community Action Network
The Parents' Climate Community	Public Citizen Texas	Solar United Neighbors Action	Texas Campaign for the Environment
Third Act Texas	Earthworks	Poder Latinx	Wildflower UU Church
Frontera Fund	Clean Water Action Texas	Coastal Watch Association	Community Powered ATX
Terra Lumina Consulting	Downwinders At Risk	Fruitful Commons	Liveable Arlington
Society of Native Nations	Climate Cabinet	People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources (PODER)	Sunrise Austin
Sunrise Movement Dallas	Another Gulf is Possible	Texans Against Gerrymandering	Citizens Lab
Fort Bend County Environmental Organization	The Social Action Council at First UU Church of Austin	Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry (TXUUJM)	Network for Opportunity, Progress, Advocacy and Liberation (N.O.P.A.L.)

Singleton United/Unidos	Nehemiah Christian School	South Texans for Reproductive Justice	Texas Citizens Climate Lobby
Go Austin / Vamos Austin	Casa De Proyecto Libertad	Coalition of Community Organizations	VOCAL-TX
Start:Empowerment	NextGen America	Austin Youth River Watch	Deeds Not Words
Jolt Action			



