
July 29, 2026

Senate Committee on Business and Commerce

Committee Members:

- CHAIR - Charles Schwertner
- VICE-CHAIR - Phil King
- César Blanco
- Donna Campbell
- Brent Hagenbuch
- Adam Hinojosa
- Nathan Johnson
- Lois Kolkhorst
- José Menéndez
- Kevin Sparks
- Judith Zaffirini

Information about the Senate Committee on Business and Commerce hearing [can be found here](#).

You can testify in person, turn in written testimony, or even call and/or email committee members.

Submit written testimony to a Texas Senate committee by using the online House Witness Registration portal while on Capitol Wi-Fi, or at one of the Capitol Extension kiosks. You can also drop off physical copies to the committee clerk at the hearing room or email it directly to the committee staff.

Submitting written testimony to a Texas Senate committee is a powerful way to influence legislation. Unfortunately, ***there is no way to submit written testimony online for Senate committees.***

Talking Points:

- The grid is more resilient than before several of the changes made by the Legislature after winter storm Uri, including because of the growth of solar and batteries which have kept the lights on and electricity wholesale lower than many other states. However, the new influx of large loads and data centers is increasing distribution and transmission costs and residential consumers need relief.
- The Legislature must redouble efforts aimed at residential consumers by considering increases to energy savings programs, utility payment assistance, and onsite generation.

Assuring that distributed energy resources like storage and onsite solar and demand response programs are part of our mix will make our grid more resilient and affordable.

- While SB 6 is a good first step to assure that data centers pay their fair share, the PUCT must move forward with changing transmission cost allocation from 4 CP to 12 CP plus an energy use factor. All large loads over 25 MWs should be required to pay either 12 CP or a separate demand charge on their peak - whichever is higher.
- In addition, the legislature should direct the PUCT to develop minimum separate tariffs for all large loads that private and public utilities must follow to assure that large loads like data centers pay for 100% of their costs. To meet the directive of the Governor's letter, we must also require all large loads to either reach a local community benefit agreement with local government and invest in local water and energy solutions like energy savings programs, or require them to pay a fee that would support state programs in water and energy solutions that directly benefit residential consumers.
- The new 765-kV backbone will have some benefits, but it is a huge cost and is impacting private property and important habitats, and could have some destructive consequences. Forcing this huge investment into a 180-day hearing timeline has been unfair and unrealistic. The Legislature should revamp the routing and hearing process for these types of large investments, expand opportunities for county judges and others to participate and make large utilities more responsive to alternative routes and technologies like Non-Wires Alternative and Grid Enhancing Technologies.
- Finally, all large loads over 25 MWs must be required to report their annual water and energy use - and its sources - to the PUCT as well as an estimate going forward. ERCOT the PUCT and the Water Development Board can not plan for our energy and water future without real and verifiable information.