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SB 1255: Either Include Everyone or Include No One

The Sierra Club as an organization has traditionally been neutral on the issue of property tax breaks for industry. Indeed, we believe it may make more sense for the State to end the Chapter 313 programs, and require businesses to pay the appropriate taxes as most homeowners do.

Still we recognize that giving tax breaks to corporations can be an important economic development tool.

We appreciate that SB 1255 does include strong public participation procedures, but we are opposed to the removal of renewable energy from the bill. Renewable energy provides important tax benefits, jobs and clean energy development that has been important particularly in rural Texas.

If we are going to provide tax breaks to fossil fuel companies, we should also provide them to clean energy companies. Either end Chapter 313 tax breaks for everyone or extend them for everyone.