SIERRA CLUB
LONE STAR CHAPTER

March 23rd, 2023

To: Dr. Schwertner, Chair, Senate Committee on Business and Commerce
Members, Senate Committee on Business and Commerce
From: Cyrus Reed, Conservation Director, Sierra Club

Repower Texas: Costs too much and won't solve our issues

The Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club is offering preliminary comments on the 8 bills (and SJR) offered today.

We have placed written testimony on each bill on a separate page for ease of reference.

While we recognize that the authors of the bills are working on committee substitutes, and we expect the bills to improve, we wanted to offer our thoughts on the good, the bad and the just plain costly that are contained in the bills.

We will also repeat our refrain that focusing only on the supply side of the equation is short-sighted, expensive, and ignores solutions that are quick, cheap and clean - energy efficiency, distributed energy resources, demand response, and advanced building codes. We know there are separate bills that will be heard later in the session on these issues, but wanted to express our disappointment that these "big" bills fail to look at how to reduce the demand, when roughly half of our peak energy use is due to residential heating and cooling during weather extremes (see recent ERCOT example). We are hopeful that future hearings can focus on bills that look at resilience and local energy solutions.

Figure 1. Roughly Half of our Peak Demand is Because of Residential Demand

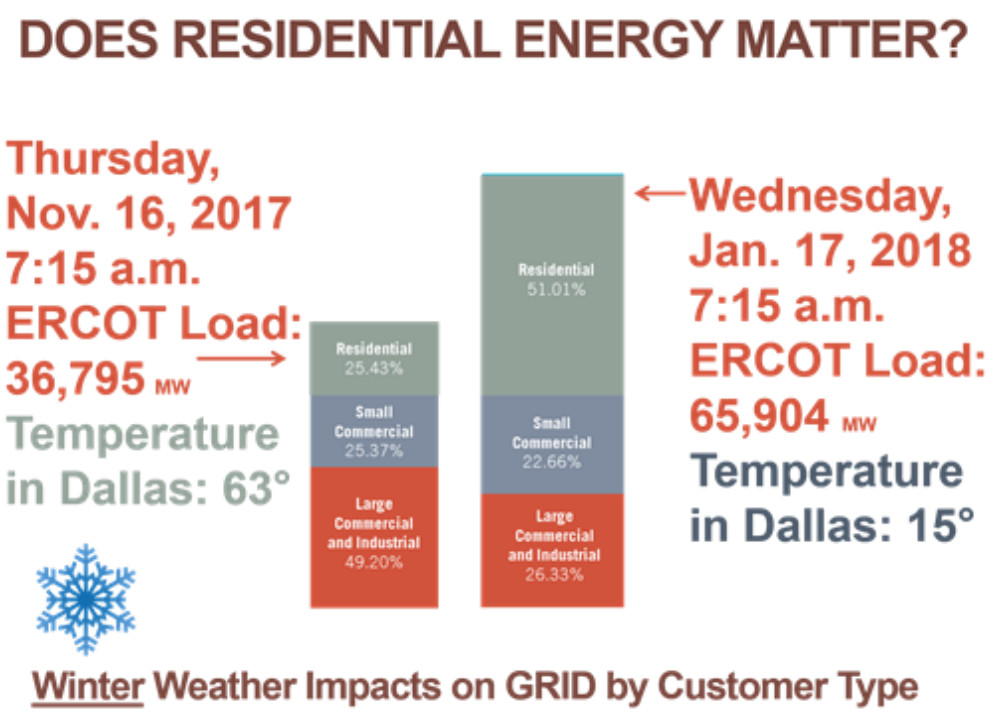

Figure 2. Texas ranks low as a state in terms of our Energy Efficiency Programs

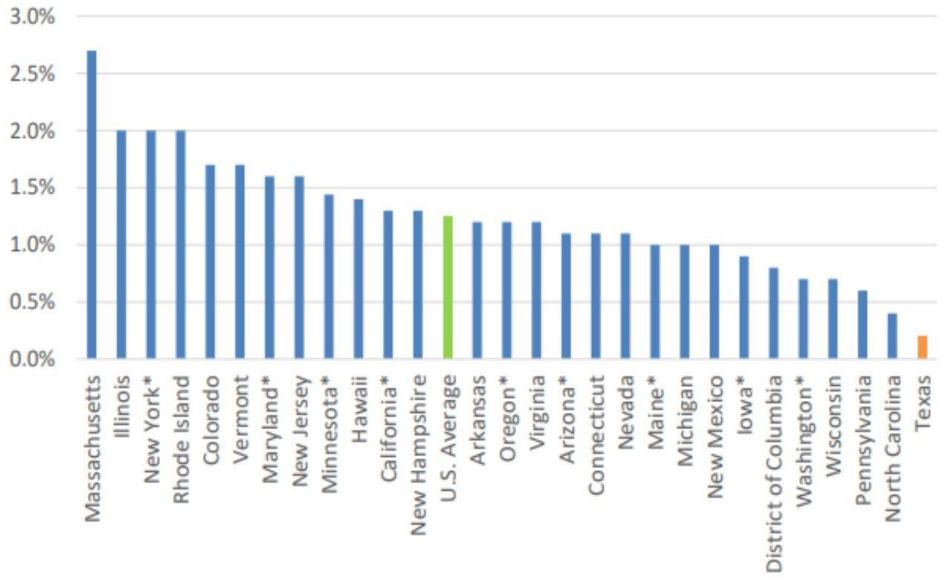

Figure 2. Annual electricity savings as a percent of state energy MWh sales per state EERS policies. For the purpose of comparison, ACEEE estimated an average annual savings target by calculating each state's EERS savings over the years specified in the EERS policy. *State savings are reported on a gross basis; a net adjustment was applied to compare with states' reporting net savings.