

The Honorable Dade Phelan
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 Speaker Phelan and Lt. Gov. Patrick,

We, the undersigned, call on Speaker Dade Phelan, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, and the Texas Legislature to pass legislation that lowers utility bill burdens on Texas families, strengthens our electric grid, and creates quality green jobs in our state.

Electric bills are too high. Energy companies have made billions while everyday Texans struggle with rising costs of living. In 2022, many Texas families were paying [50% more](#) for electricity than they were in 2021, and they are still paying for the failures of utilities and power companies during Winter Storm Uri. We are concerned that, despite proclamations to have fixed the grid, Texans remain vulnerable to the high costs of the climate crisis. Instead of forcing ratepayers to foot the bill for building expensive, climate-polluting gas power plants, we want to see the Texas Legislature invest in the lowest-cost, most-effective solution to our grid crisis: energy efficiency.

People-first solutions like weatherizing homes, insulating small businesses and upgrading windows can stabilize the grid, help control the cost of electricity by reducing demand, and make it easier for Texans to stay cool or warm inside their homes. Specifically, we ask that you:

Pass legislation to assist low income families whose electric utility bills represent more than 10% of their monthly income through payment assistance and weatherization.

Raise the statewide goal for energy efficiency to just 1% of utility sales. Some estimates suggest we could have reduced the extra energy demand of Winter Storm Uri by half if we had a 1% goal in place. Texas has not raised its goals for energy efficiency in more than 12 years. Now is the time.

Move ambitiously to access new federal funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill and Inflation Reduction Act to set up the rules for state-administered programs and support increased funding in weatherization, energy efficiency rebate and loan programs, clean energy, resilient building codes, environmental justice projects, and transmission.

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, including federal funds.

Approve a robust sunset bill to make the Public Utility Commission of Texas responsive to the public, and provide additional resources for up to 60 additional staff, including an Office of Public Engagement and an Energy Efficiency Office.

Texas used to be a top-ranked state in energy efficiency, but we have sunk to 29th nationwide, according to the [American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy](#). If we claim to be a state of innovation, friendly to local businesses, and always looking for ways to reduce financial burdens on families, then energy efficiency should be at the top of your legislative agenda.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter for our members and supporters.

Sincerely,

Air Alliance Houston	Este Poder	Sierra Club
Altruistic Endeavors NGO	Fort Bend County Environmental Organization	Somos Tejas
Another Gulf Is Possible Collaborative	Galveston Island Voter Education Resource & Services	South Texas Environmental Justice Network
Asian Texans for Justice	Grassroots Leadership	Southwest Laborers District Council
Border Workers United	Indivisible Austin	South-Central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource
Cameron County Democratic Women	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 520	Sunrise Movement Austin
Carrizo Comecrudo Tribal Nation of Texas	Liveable Arlington	Terra Lumina Consulting
Centex Action Network	MOVE Texas Action Fund	Texans Against Gerrymandering
Central Texas Building Trades	NextGen America	Texas Campaign for the Environment
Chispa Texas	People Organized in Defense of Earth and her Resources (PODER)	Texas Freedom Network
Citizens Climate Lobby Texas	Public Citizen	Texas impact
Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience	Rio Grande International Study Center	Texas Poor People's Campaign
Commission Shift	SanArte Healing and Cultural Clinic	Turtle Island Restoration Network
Environmental Defense Fund	Solar United Neighbors	West Street Recovery



SIERRA CLUB

LONE STAR CHAPTER

COALITION FOR ENVIRONMENT,
EQUITY, AND RESILIENCE

CEER

LA COALICIÓN PARA EL MEDIO
AMBIENTE, EQUITAD Y RESILIENCIA



**TEXAS
FREEDOM
NETWORK**

PUBLIC CITIZEN 50
YEARS



The South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource



**MOVE
TEXAS**

grassroots leadership
helping people gain power

**COMMISSION
SHIFT**



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF TEXAS

TEXAS



A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL



IGNITING THE MOVEMENT. ADVANCING CLIMATE JUSTICE.



STREET RECOVERY



**TEXAS CAMPAIGN
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

Citizens' Climate Lobby





INDIVISIBLE
AUSTIN

