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October 4, 2013

Public Utilities Commission of Texas
1701 N. Congress Ave.
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326

RE: PUCT Project No. 40000

Dear Commissioners,

Texas' small businesses are key to the state's well being. They account for a significant share of the state's economic production and hiring. Small businesses create a substantial number of Texas' new jobs, and they bring dynamic ideas, innovative services, and new products to the marketplace.

With a skyrocketing energy demand, the level of planning reserves forecasted by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) is projected to dwindle over coming years. In other words, the state's rising electricity demand will outstrip electricity supply and generation in the near future.

It is not alarmist to say that if steps are not taken to address the state's looming energy gap Texas businesses could very well face rolling blackouts and increased electricity price volatility.

To ensure that there is sufficient supply of electricity to meet both consumer and business demand, your commission has begun debating potential reforms to the electricity market to ensure there is an adequate long term supply of electricity in our state. I applaud your attention to this important matter. The need for broad reform of the state's electricity market is immediate and significant.

We must create a business environment that protects existing small business and encourages entrepreneurship. This will create jobs in Texas and contribute to the overall economic growth of our state. I urge the PUCT to consider reforms that maintain adequate planning reserves and prioritize reliability. Nothing is more important to the economic engine of our state that making sure the electricity that powers it is there when we need it.

Sincerely,

Luis Fernando Gomez, President

cc:
Governor Rick Perry

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