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Public Utilities Commission of Texas PUCT Project No 40002
1701 North Congress Ave.
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326

To the Commissioners of the Public Utility Commission of Texas:

Any Texan can tell you that as soon summer rolls around and hundred plus degree temperatures become more common, the A-C gets cranked up even higher than before. Our electrical grids face an influx of demand every time this happens and we are currently at a tipping point between having the power there or not.

The constant specter of rolling blackouts or brownouts is a fear that is looming over Texas, and as an advocate for small business owner, that is something they cannot afford to risk. Our state has seen unprecedented population growth in the past few years that has created economic growth and investment. Our state needs to ensure that businesses can operate on a solid footing with respect to the security and reliability of electric power.

The best possible way to do this is to reform the current energy supply marketplace, and the time to do that is now. According to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, the existing energy market cannot guarantee a reliable supply of power for the future – this is a problem that Texans simply cannot afford. Since it's impossible to store large quantities of electricity, and running out is an unfathomable option, there needs to be a strong and robust reserve available for demand on our hottest days. The current system does not provide this.

Many other states in the country have adopted a different type of energy market called a "capacity marketplace" that ensures the ability for a state to have an adequate power supply and thus a reliable foundation for economic growth. A capacity market provides insurance that there will be enough power to meet demand – meaning no threats of rolling blackouts. By allowing a capacity-type marketplace, you are enabling our state's power generators to create new facilities and plan for future growth and demand.

Austin needs to get ahead of the conversation and enact reforms that provide stability and assurance for the electric marketplace. Without these needed reforms our state will miss out on potential growth and economic opportunities that have aided us in the past few years. Reforming our energy market is the only way to ensure a reliable economic future for Texas and continue the amazing growth.

Sincerely,

Maya Durnovo, Ed.D.
Associate Vice Chancellor Economic Development Entrepreneurial Initiatives

cc:
Governor Rick Perry