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November 14, 2013
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

Public Utilities Commission of Texas
Re: PUCT Project No. 40000
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711



Dear Commissioner:

Here at Talento Bilingüe de Houston, we work to foster Houston's multicultural arts experience through collaboration, education and preservation. We understand how every facet of our culture is critical to the overall community. When each group within our community succeeds, we all succeed. It is vital that we invest in our societies from the bottom up. And this starts with infrastructure to support the needs of every member.

Texas is growing rapidly in terms of population and economics. This booming society translates to an ever-increasing demand for electricity. Today, our state finds itself nearing a point where our margin of electricity reserves is not keeping up with demand. According to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT), rising demand for energy will surpass generation and reserves in the near future. This means that our strategy for approaching electricity regulation needs to change.

Since electricity isn't something that you can store at large quantities, there does need to be a reserve of generation and other load resources. The currently "energy only" market that is operating here in Texas pays power generators for only the energy they actually sell to ratepayers. This fails to incentivize companies to build new power plants or for the market to innovate with other solutions. Our state's Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) recently conducted an analysis of the existing electricity market, which suggested a capacity market system would enable Texas utilities to maintain reliability and bring on new generation over the coming years.

Recently, the PUCT indicated their support for a mandatory reserve margin as a first step toward greater reliability in the power market. I agree with the PUCT and suggest that our great state of Texas commit to transitioning to a capacity market. With a capacity market, we would have an established energy supply to avoid electricity shortages and limit price volatility. This solution addresses our current problem and looks ahead to plan better for our high tech future. Texans' demand for energy is projected to increase significantly over the coming decades, so now is the time to act. I believe we have a well-demonstrated need for immediate and broad reform of Texas' electricity market. Please make the sensible decision to support a capacity market.

Regards,


Saul Valentin,
Board Chair

CC:

Governor Rick Perry
Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst
Rep. Byron Cook
Rep. Sylvester Turner
Rep. Helen Giddings

Sen. John Carona
Sen. Kirk Watson
Sen. Larry Taylor
Sen. Troy Frasier
Speaker Joe Straus

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