

WHY IS SENATE BILL 624 BAD FOR TEXAS?

Senate Bill 624 grows the size of government in Texas by creating a renewable energy permitting regime. This legislation would require the permitting of existing and new projects, placing investments at risk and jeopardizing local school districts, their property tax bases, and the financial commitments districts have made in anticipation of revenue from wind and solar energy projects. **No other type of energy generation is included in the proposal**, despite the fact that renewable energy power plants already must post financial assurance and fully fund the requirement in state law to decommission their facilities.

*If **Senate Bill 624** were to pass, a significant portion of the fuel mix would come offline and renewable energy would cease to play a meaningful role in the state.*

Senate Bill 624:

Threatens grid reliability

SB 624 includes arduous requirements that are designed to put wind and solar power plants at a disadvantage during the permitting process. Ultimately, many plants will shut down, others will be unable to repower with more efficient technology, and those currently in development will never become operational. **All outcomes lead to fewer megawatts and an increased likelihood of power outages.** Texas simply cannot afford to lose a single megawatt of power, and passing this bill would cause a reliability catastrophe like none the state has seen before.

Tramples Texas' coveted private property rights

Texans have exercised their private property rights by leasing land for energy production for more than a century. SB 624 requires notification and a public hearing for all neighbors within 25 miles, require setbacks from other property lines, and gives unprecedented authority for unelected bureaucrats to decide the highest and best use of private property.

Makes electricity costs higher for Texas consumers

SB 624 will make the lowest-cost sources of power more expensive. **That increase in the cost of power will ultimately be paid by consumers who saved more than \$11 billion in 2022 due to renewable energy but are still struggling to pay skyrocketing electric bills.**

Expands government regulation

SB 624 neglects the pro-business foundation that the Texas Miracle was built upon. Over-burdensome, unnecessary, and duplicative regulation on an industry already subject to requirements from more than 15 government agencies will **halt investment and innovation, squash competition, and raise prices for consumers.**

The bill also massively expands the scope and duties of ill-equipped, understaffed state agencies in issuing the authority to request superfluous information, determine locational boundaries of renewable energy facilities, and dictate how a project should maximize energy output. **This process would be incredibly time consuming for all parties involved and potentially costly to applicants.**

SB 624 takes power off the grid, violates our private property rights, makes electricity more expensive for Texans and promotes government overreach. We must encourage the Legislature to reject policy that impedes renewable energy expansion in Texas!