

TEXAS HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES



SAM HARLESS

DISTRICT 126

February 17, 2021

Bill Magness, Executive Director
Sally Talberg, Chair ERCOT Board of Directors
7620 Metro Center Drive
Austin, Texas 78744

YOU HAVE FAILED TEXAS! This is what I hear about ERCOT from my constituents and in the current circumstances it is anything but hard to agree. This year's second cold weather event is only unique due to its broad statewide impact. In previous years we have had extreme summer heat place similar challenges to our electric infrastructure. This cold front was in weather predictions for days ahead of the event and lived up to expectation, yet ERCOT had generating plants offline. News reports of this second failure in ten years to properly "weatherize" our electrical generation facilities are rolling out in major cities and it appears this is a repeat of ERCOT's failure to handle severe weather of ten years ago.

As a former and current member of the State Affairs Committee for the Texas House of Representatives, I have listened to many hours of testimony about the electrical system's limitations on power generation, overall capacity, and our 18% reserve. In the grand scheme, such reserve would seem marginal at best. Rolling blackouts and power outages that spread throughout Texas' power grid in both hot and cold weather would also seem to demonstrate the current administration and oversight board possesses insufficient imagination or resources to properly assess and plan for the capacity needs of our critical electrical infrastructure. It appears the time for a change in that leadership and our ability to prepare is now.

What Texans have come to depend on for electricity, should above all be dependable when they need it the most. If this is to become our standard for the future of ERCOT, serious consideration should be taken to removing "Reliability" from its name.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Harless".

Sam Harless
State Representative District 126