



Comments to the House Committee on Energy Resources

HB 14: Relating to the creation of the Texas Electricity Supply Chain Mapping Committee.

**The Honorable Craig Goldman,
Members, Committee on Energy Resources**

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When Speaker Dade Phelan announced the House's preferred approach to reform the electric and gas supply system to assure that the events of last February never happen again, he announced that Chairman Goldman would be carrying a bill to assure weatherization of the gas supply system. While it is clear there were a variety of issues that led to the massive failure of the ERCOT grid during Uri, one of the factors was the failure of the state - including the Railroad Commission of Texas - to require weatherization of wells and other equipment in the gas supply chain. While it is true that part of this failure was the fact that some circuits that helped move gas along the process were cut off from electricity and not included

as critical infrastructure, there do appear to be cases where equipment froze and processed gas could not get to where it was needed, even where circuits were energized.

Unfortunately, rather than a required weatherization program, HB 14 as filed is essentially a mapping and reporting exercise focused mainly on assuring that critical infrastructure is covered by the electric system. Recently, ERCOT updated its process to make it easier for oil and gas companies to add critical infrastructure so that it is better protected during outages, largely solving this issue. As such, it appears to be a failure on the part of leadership to take the need to weatherize oil and gas seriously. While a number of other house bills have been filed that would require weatherization, we believe that Chairman Goldman and leadership should require the RRC of Texas to develop required weatherization rules that take into account not only events like Uri, but our changing climate.

While the Sierra Club does not object to a mapping exercise, we believe it falls far short of the solutions needed to make sure we never have an event - and the tragedy of human life lost - like the one that recently occurred.

The Lone Star Chapter would suggest that HB 14 be adjusted to include required weatherization of the oil and gas supply chain. We are happy to provide language as appropriate as several good bills have been filed by other members.