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May 5, 2026

Chairman Thomas Gleeson and PUC Commissioners
The Public Utilities Commission of Texas
1701 Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78701

Chairman Gleeson and Commissioners,

We are writing to formally request a meeting to discuss the Bell County East to Big Hill 765kV project and our concerns that it exceeds the intended scope of HB 5066 (88R).

It is our understanding that the Permian Basin Reliability Plan can be successfully executed without the immediate construction of all proposed Import Paths. In fact, if the strategy were to prioritize dispatchable energy generation within the Permian Basin, closer to the fuel source, it could provide greater long-term grid reliability for Texas than relying primarily on large-scale import path transmission projects. It is our concern that increasing transmission capacity without increasing energy generation falls short of the solutions discussed in the aftermath of Winter Storm Uri. In fact, it was made abundantly clear that Texas needs more dispatchable energy generation and prioritizing transmission of energy produced by renewables does nothing to address a significant problem in the mix of electrical generation we currently have in our state.

ERCOT's December 2024 sequencing recommendation to the Public Utility Commission further supports this concern, indicating that only two of the three import paths are needed by 2030. While the finding does not explicitly name Import Path 2, it is clear that one of the three paths is not necessary until a later date. This raises important questions about timing, cost, and whether these projects align with the original legislative intent of HB 5066.

As the Texas Legislature prepares to review issues related to energy generation, storage, and transmission ahead of the 90th Legislative Session, it is prudent to pause further progress on this project. Taking time for a fuller policy review and broader public discussion will help ensure that any long-term decisions are informed by a complete understanding of their potential impacts.



Texans deserve a more thoughtful and deliberate approach to improving existing infrastructure, one that enhances reliability and resilience, reduces costs, and better protects private property rights.

We appreciate your consideration of this matter and look forward to the opportunity to visit with you further about this issue.

Handwritten signature of Brad Buckley in cursive script.

Rep. Brad Buckley

Handwritten signature of Senator Pete Flores in cursive script.

Senator Pete Flores

Handwritten signature of Rep. Drew Darby in cursive script.

Rep. Drew Darby

Handwritten signature of Rep. Hillary Hickland in cursive script.

Rep. Hillary Hickland

Handwritten signature of Rep. Ellen Troxclair in cursive script.

Rep. Ellen Troxclair