

The Texas Coalition for Affordable Power ***Recommendations for a More Competitive Electric Market***

Because high energy costs can impact municipal budgets and the ability to fund essential services, TCAP, as part of its mission, actively promotes affordable energy policies. Affordable power in a fully competitive market also means economic development for our communities and a better life for our citizens. TCAP members are committed to making electric deregulation work.

Maintaining an even playing field for cities

Cities have a long history representing consumers in “regulated” rate cases. But big electric companies want to deter cities from exercising any opposition so they can more easily raise rates. TCAP will work hard at the Texas Legislature to protect city authority.

Fair Price for Electricity Produced at Home

Are rooftop solar panels installed in your community? TCAP supports legislation that will ensure that residential and small commercial customers that produce excess power at their homes or businesses receive a fair price for power they provide the grid.

Reduce Confusion in the Retail Electricity Market

Texans should have access to standard-language electricity deals. These deals will enhance competition by facilitating apples-to-apples price shopping.



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Avoid Changes in the Market that Will Increase Costs

Some of the state's generation companies want to receive big payments for power plants, regardless of whether any power is actually generated — and are lobbying hard for changes to make it happen. TCAP will oppose proposals at the Legislature that create unnecessary price supports for generators that circumvent the competitive market and increase electricity costs to consumers.

Updating Market Protections in the Lone Star State

Where appropriate, anti-competitive behavior prohibited in other states should also be prohibited in Texas. Texas regulators should have the same power to assess penalties as regulators elsewhere. Legal loopholes that exempt some generators from prosecution should be closed.

Promote Public-Private Electric Generation Partnerships

TCAP wants cities to have the right to pursue small-scale generation projects, just so long as the projects enhance economic development and produce affordable power. Such public-private partnerships also are a cost-effective way to help address the state's long-term generation and reliability challenges.

No foreign ownership of electric distribution facilities

Texans depend on a complex network of wires to bring power to their homes. With so much at stake, accountability is important. That's why there should be no foreign ownership of local electric distribution networks. When the system fails or bills go up, Texans shouldn't have to call Madrid to complain. Home rule cities — individually or collectively — also should be permitted to own and operate electric distribution networks.

Hold Big Generation Companies Accountable for Market Abuses

Under Texas law, big generation companies can obtain advanced regulatory protections against future prosecution for anti-competitive behavior. TCAP supports reforms to ensure that these advanced protections are fair, and don't become "Get Out Of Jail Free" cards for market abusers.



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