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37448

To: Chairman Smitherman - PUC
Fax: (512) 936-7028
From: Ernie Loeffler
Date: 6/23/10
Pages: 3
(including cover sheet)

Dear PUC Commissioners,

Attached is a resolution passed by the Board of the Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau on June 22, 2010, as well as a list of our voting members. We request that this document be added to Docket #37448 and Docket #37049. We appreciate the opportunity to voice our serious economic and environmental concerns regarding transmission line routes in the Texas Hill Country. Thank you.

Ernie Loeffler

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The Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau

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1219



FREDERICKSBURG
in the Texas Hill Country!
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, tourism to Gillespie County generated an estimated \$79,500,000 in direct spending in 2008; and

WHEREAS, nearly 1,000 jobs in Gillespie County were directly related to tourism in 2008; and

WHEREAS, almost every resident of Gillespie County benefits indirectly from the economic impact of the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, visitors from major metropolitan areas across the State of Texas view the Texas Hill Country, including Gillespie County, as their place to retreat from the increasingly urban, industrial built environment of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the construction of transmission lines in the Texas Hill Country as proposed by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of Texas to move renewable wind energy resources to electric customers in the major metropolitan areas will forever alter the natural beauty of the Texas Hill Country affecting the scenic retreat of millions of Texans and visitors from across the United States; and

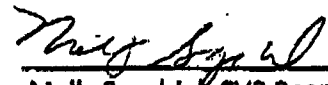
WHEREAS, there is now debate whether the transmission lines from Gillespie to Newton and Kendall to Gillespie are even necessary; and

WHEREAS, these lines will forever alter the scenic beauty of Gillespie County and the Texas Hill Country, not to mention the threat to the economic well being of Hill Country residents and being an unforgiveable waste of taxpayers' dollars if they are indeed unnecessary;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE FREDERICKSBURG CONVENTION AND VISITOR BUREAU:

1. That the Board of the Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau opposes the construction of the CREZ transmission line plan through Gillespie County. The Board questions the need for both the Gillespie to Newton and the Kendall to Gillespie line segments and respectfully requests that the PUC re-evaluate the need for those line segments since they are not directly related to the effort to move wind power to market.
2. That if the McCamey D to Kendall line segment is to be routed through Gillespie County, then the route should be adjacent to the Interstate 10 right of way. The Board believes that such routing is the most justifiable and overall the least impactful on the Texas Hill Country.

Passed and approved this 22nd day of June, 2010.


Molly Sagehler, CVB Board Secretary

The Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau

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Voting Members – Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau

Ross Burtwell, Cabernet Grill, A Texas Wine Country Restaurant

John Dubea, Clear River Pecan Company

Molly Sagebiel, Camp David B&B

Claude Saunders, Magnolia House B&B

Sandy Nigh, Whistle Pik Galleries

Dick Estenson, The Hangar Hotel

Helen McDonald, The Admiral Nimitz Foundation

Iris Neffendorf, LBJ State Park and Historic Site

Mary Easterling, Easterling Custom Boot Company

Ken Maxwell, Torre di Pietra Vineyards

Debbie Farquhar-Garner, Creative Marketing