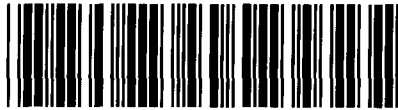


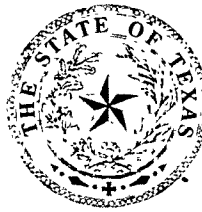


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PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
FILING CLERK

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AUSTIN

October 26, 2016

Chairman Donna Nelson
Commissioner Ken Anderson
Commissioner Brandy Marquez
1701 N. Congress
P.O. Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326

RE: Docket No. 45624, *Application of the City of Garland to Amend a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for the Rusk to Panola Double-Circuit 345 kV Transmission Line in Rusk and Panola Counties*

Dear Commissioners:

As the representatives of Rusk and Panola Counties, we have been keenly interested in the development of the Southern Cross Transmission Project. This Project will traverse each of our legislative districts and will directly impact our constituents. Thus, we appreciate your consideration of Garland's application in this proceeding and look forward to the results of your deliberations.

We have been surprised to hear about claims that there will be no economic benefits resulting from this Project. From our perspective, there is no doubt that the investment of approximately \$100 million in Rusk and Panola Counties will be a significant boost to our local economies. Clearly, there will be the immediate direct and indirect benefits resulting from the additional construction jobs and construction activity. In addition, and as a result of other provisions in SB 776 enacted last session, the addition of this investment will result in Garland making payments that will almost double the *ad valorem* tax revenue collected in each county. There can be no doubt that this dramatic increase will provide substantial benefits to local communities and their schools for years to come.

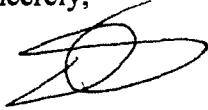
Texas is proud to be wide open to innovation and business as well as being the energy capital of the nation with a rich history of exporting energy to other states and countries. Traditionally, ERCOT is an island with limited ability to import or export a significant amount of power. The project will expand both capabilities, including the ability to import power during system emergencies, like the rolling blackouts on February 11, 2013, and to export what some have called "excess" wind power. At the same time, these enhancements will be made while

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protecting ERCOT's freedom from any additional regulatory authority by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Southern Cross Project presents many benefits to Texas, and we look forward to this state and its residents realizing those opportunities.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this letter and for your service. We appreciate the opportunity to ensure that these real benefits are not overlooked in your consideration of Garland's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Travis Clardy', written over a horizontal line.

Travis Clardy
State Representative
House District 11