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My name is Patricia Morgan. I live at 6303 Betty Cook Drive, Austin TX 78723. I am self employed as a Licensed Professional Counselor.

I am sending my comments with regards to the PUC meeting on Thursday 12/16/21. It's my profound wish, as a Texas citizen, that the problems with our grid get attention. My reading of what happened is that the natural gas sites froze- that was the largest percent of the failure. It seems like a reasonable expectation that the energy providers at these particular sites would winterize their points of transmission. I do not understand why this has not been required yet. Why are these companies treated with kids gloves? They failed us- 6 inches of snow and 150 people dead....

I'd like to talk about my experience in the Uri Ice Storm. Ladies and Gentlemen, it was not so bad for me and my family. We lost power for 3 days. It was inconvenient. What made this an inconvenience instead of a disaster was the way our house was built. We have excellent insulation. Our home was built with structured insulated panels. They give us thick walls. Our panels are shaped like ice cream sandwiches- particle board for the cookie, thick insulation for the ice cream- low cost and high R Value. We have many windows in this house. When we built it we invested in very well made windows. After the 3 days of no electricity our thermostat came on. It registered 52 degrees at that time. With warm clothes on we were never at risk during the 3 days. Our house was built like this primarily to deal with the heat of Texas. Let me tell you it is very comfortable in this house in those summer months.

I doubt that the way we built our house will never become the norm. It is a shame that it doesn't- I can imagine your thoughts about market forces. Yes, builder will build cheaper and people will buy what is on the market. Houses will fall down. Houses will not be built to deal with the extremes of weather that are in our near future. But you, as PUC members could do more to encourage sustainable building. It is smart to lessen demand on the grid by sensible building practices. The PUC could support and lobby for a state energy code! What an idea! If not that, work for energy codes for the rural areas that are not affected by any municipal code. Come on PUC members...Do something!