



Filing Receipt

Filing Date - 2024-06-11 04:12:19 PM

Control Number - 54037

Item Number - 18



DONNA HOWARD

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 48

June 6, 2024

Commissioner Jimmy Glotfelty
Public Utilities Commission of Texas
1701 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Commissioner Glotfelty,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to request the organization of stakeholder workshops involving Oncor, CenterPoint, AEP Texas, and other relevant parties to begin exploring the implementation of Circuit Health Monitoring (CHM) technology that would aid in mitigating wildfires and improve electricity reliability.

In the 83rd Regular Legislative Session, Chairman John Otto authorized and funded a two-year Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) project to demonstrate the effectiveness of CHM in selected high-risk fire areas. Under Dr. Don Russell, TEES developed the first and fully autonomous Distribution Fault Anticipation (DFA) technology. This affordable and effective fire prevention tool can detect downed power lines, failing line apparatus, and arcing equipment weeks before a catastrophic fire could break out. Given the increasing frequency and severity of wildfires in Texas, the integration of innovative technology such as DFA by utility companies could significantly enhance our ability to detect and respond to potential fire hazards in real-time while ensuring increased reliability.

I strongly believe that collaborative efforts between the Public Utilities Commission, utility stakeholders, and the relevant parties—such as the Texas Wildfire Mitigation project—will foster a comprehensive strategy to combat wildfires and subsequently maintain reliable utility services throughout our state. These meetings could serve as a platform to discuss the integration of this advanced technology into existing infrastructure, address any operational concerns, and outline the roles and responsibilities of each party involved.

Given the stakes, I ask that you consider this request with the urgency it warrants. Facilitating these discussions as soon as possible will enable us to capitalize on the potential benefits of using

Texas-funded and patented technology while reinforcing our state's resilience against the ever-present threat of wildfires and also improving our electric utility reliability.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am confident that under your leadership and by connecting the relevant parties, we can protect lives, property, and ecosystems for generations to come. I look forward to your favorable response and am available to discuss this further at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Howard". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Donna Howard
State Representative, HD 48