



## **Filing Receipt**

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March 20, 2024

The Honorable Thomas Gleeson, Chair, Public Utility Commission  
The Honorable Lori Cobos, Commissioner, Public Utility Commission  
The Honorable Jimmy Glotfelty, Commissioner, Public Utility Commission  
The Honorable Kathleen Jackson, Commissioner, Public Utility Commission

Re: Project No. 55826, *Texas Energy Fund In-ERCOT Generation Loan Program*

Dear Commissioners,

Last session, the Legislature overwhelmingly passed Senate Bill 2627, the Powering Texas Forward Act, which created the Texas Energy Fund (TEF) to swiftly address the growing energy needs of our state. I appreciate the efforts taken by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to establish parameters for the various TEF programs, starting with the in-ERCOT generation loan program. As you review the recently proposed rule, I would like to reemphasize the legislative intent of the TEF program to incentivize new investment in dispatchable generation to strengthen the Texas grid.

Specifically, legislators constructed the TEF loan to support an investment landscape favorable to dispatchable projects of various size and strategy, with a goal of accelerating those projects capable of delivering power to serve the immediate needs of our state. PUC staff's proposal supports an inclusive pool of eligible applicants and investment opportunities, which captures the Legislature's vision that the TEF foster innovative solutions for near-term deployment.

Further, an important cornerstone of the TEF is maximizing taxpayer dollars to secure reliable power for the long-term benefit of all Texans. The historic \$10 billion program required ratification from Texas voters, and obligating public dollars demands the upmost prudence in selecting projects to receive public funding. It is of paramount importance that TEF loans be traceably spent on projects yielding the greatest public benefits. It is also essential these projects meet certain performance standards throughout the lifecycle of the loan.

To that end, I appreciate PUC staff's acknowledgement of ongoing public and stakeholder engagement as an essential component of the TEF process. I encourage the PUC to consider additional efforts to promote transparency, where appropriate, alongside its administration of the TEF program.

Thank you for your commitment to the people of Texas. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Schwertner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" at the end.

Senator Charles Schwertner