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Public Utility Commission of Texas
William B. Travis State Office Building
1701 N. Congress Ave., 7th Floor
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Chairman Gleason and Commissioners Jackson and Hjaltman:

Monarch Strategic Ventures (MSV) supports CenterPoint Energy's proposed microgrid pilot program and encourages the Commission to seek further details on how the \$35 million budget will be allocated.

Monarch is an energy development and asset management firm dedicated to advancing clean technology solutions, particularly in low-to-moderate income (LMI) communities that have historically lacked access to resiliency investments. Our portfolios include significant commitments in affordable housing—spanning over 60,000 units nationwide—as well as more than 3 gigawatts of renewable and clean energy generation projects across 31 states.

In Texas, MSV applies its expertise by developing and owning projects that integrate affordable housing with the dynamic ERCOT energy market. Since the launch of the 2022 Aggregate Distributed Energy Resource (ADER) Pilot Program, Texas has become an attractive destination for private investment in distributed solar photovoltaics paired with battery storage. We strongly support the Commission's efforts via the ADER pilot program to create a more affordable and resilient distribution grid for all Texans.

LMI communities are among the most vulnerable to prolonged power outages, yet they often lack the resources to adopt critical resiliency technologies without government support or private-sector innovation. CenterPoint's microgrid pilot program directly addresses this challenge by complementing other resiliency measures, such as the IGSD load shed program. The proposed segmentation capabilities would allow targeted maintenance within the distribution network, minimizing disruptions. Additionally, the microgrids would enhance local resiliency by acting as small power generators capable of supporting their own operations and adjacent neighborhoods with dispatchable electricity. Given that some equipment will overlap with other initiatives and that CenterPoint may integrate existing and future generation assets, we urge the Commission to seek clarity on the additional infrastructure and engineering studies required to enable neighborhood-level islanding and the overall reach of each microgrid.

We believe CenterPoint's plan aligns the interests of the utility, ratepayers, and the broader energy market while fostering innovation in resiliency development. MSV encourages the Commission to support this pilot program after obtaining further details on the proposed budget allocation.

Sincerely,

Walter L. McLeod
Managing Director

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