Rep. / Sen. _____,

I write to you today because I am gravely concerned about the future stability of our electric grid. Winter Storm Uri exposed a critical flaw in our system: a high reliance on ***unreliable*** sources of energy. In Texas, the result was blackouts that left millions of people without power and heat for nearly four days during the coldest winter storm in state history.

In the past, unreliable sources of energy like wind and solar have been ***prioritized and subsidized***. According to the Texas Public Policy Foundation, for every 39 cents the oil and gas industry received in taxpayer subsidies from 2010 to 2019, the wind industry received $18.86 and the solar industry received an almost unbelievable $82.46. That means, over the last decade, unreliable energy sources (i.e., wind and solar) ***received between 48 times and 211 times more subsidies than the reliable ones*** (i.e., coal and natural gas).

On top of that, the wind and solar industry has received billions in local property tax reductions and the State of Texas will have spent over $14 billion building special wind and solar transmission lines by 2029. While most business owners must pay to bring their product to market, the wind and solar energy get a ***free ride*** thanks to taxpayers.

If you add it all up, it is estimated that taxpayers and ratepayers will pay $36 billion by 2029 to subsidize wind and solar energy. This includes the renewable electricity production tax credit, which was recently extended through the end of 2021. These subsidies have tripled wind and solar capacity in Texas in the last 10 years. As we learned, capacity does not equate to electric generation.

Unfortunately, we have not gotten our money's worth. While many celebrate the seemingly impressive 30 gigawatt "capacity" of Texas' wind turbines and solar panels, that capacity has always been an illusion. In the lead-up to the storm, before any wind turbines froze, solar and wind generation fell from meeting over 50% to under 5% of demand—solely due to their inherent unreliability. (View chart here)

There has been discussion in Congress about tying Texas' future success to the national grids. This would be a mistake. As stated in a recent Texas Monthly piece, *"having a grid that could have drawn more power from other states would have done little to ease the crisis... With most of the country also facing bitterly cold temperatures, the rest of the U.S. wouldn't have had much to spare anyway."*

I strongly urge you to take bold action to stabilize our electric grid by ending future subsidies for unreliable forms of energy. Texas cannot afford to come within minutes of total electric grid system failure ever again, and the only way to ensure we never come that close again is to reverse public policy choices that have prioritized and subsidized inefficient and unreliable sources of energy, like wind and solar, and instead focus on cheap, plentiful, and reliable sources of energy, such as natural gas, coal, and nuclear.

Make Texas energy reliable again!

Sincerely,

<Your Name>
<Your Address & City>