



## Recommendations to 89th Texas Legislature

### Electricity

- Improve resiliency by establishing minimum regional standards for design, construction and inspection of transmission and distribution infrastructure.
- Exempt advanced nuclear reactors from paying more than the standard cost to connect their generation resources to transmission infrastructure.
- Protect the Texas grid by giving the PUCT authority to conduct background checks on employees with access to sensitive information.
- Eliminate ambiguity in utility proceedings and clarify the PUCT's oversight of RV billing complaints by establishing a clear definition of "recreational vehicle" in the Public Utility Regulatory Act.

### Water

- Create certainty for utilities and consumers by shortening the timeline for approving System Improvement Charge applications to 60 days.
- Broaden the pool of authorized and qualified entities that can rescue distressed water and sewer utilities by:
  - Clarifying the definition of who is qualified to serve as a temporary manager to restore essential water or sewer service; and
  - Expediting the sale, transfer or merger process available to municipalities, water or sewer service corporations, utility districts, river authorities or water control and improvement districts that want to serve as temporary managers.

### Enforcement

- Provide the PUCT clear and consistent enforcement authority over all wholesale market participants, including electric cooperatives, municipally owned utilities (MOUs), and river authorities.
- Hold sewer utilities to the same standards as water utilities by clarifying the PUCT's enforcement authority over them.
- Enhance the PUCT's ability to negotiate fair enforcement settlements on behalf of Texans by extending confidentiality of investigation files beyond the resolution of a case, as allowed for other state regulatory agencies.

### Severe Weather Preparedness and Response

- Ensure all customers—including those of MOUs and cooperatives—have reasonable information about outage status and estimated restoration time and can contact their service provider 24 hours a day to report outages or emergencies.
- Hold utilities accountable for insufficient storm preparation or response by establishing standards for performance during a major weather event and allow the PUCT to pursue enhanced administrative penalties for violations.
- Incentivize more proactive vegetation management by increasing the penalty cap or implementing a maximum threshold for forced outages caused by vegetation-related issues.

Scan the QR code to read more about the PUCT's recommendations to the 89th Texas Legislature.

