

**POWERHOUSE TEXAS** 

TEXAS ENERGY & CLIMATE CAUCUS



# INTERIM CHARGES

## JUNE 2024

**POWERING ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS**

Texas Energy & Climate Caucus | [www.texasclimatecaucus.com](http://www.texasclimatecaucus.com)

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# POWERHOUSE TEXAS

## TEXAS ENERGY & CLIMATE CAUCUS

### HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE CHARGES

See the full list [here](#).

#### SCHEDULED

9:00 AM, Monday, June 10, 2024 - Committee on State Affairs (Monitoring) [Hearing Notice](#)

9:00 AM, Monday, July 8, 2024 - Committee on State Affairs [Hearing Notice](#)

### Committee on Environmental Regulation

**Monitoring:** Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 88th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure the intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following: [HB 3060](#), relating to the regulation of recycling and recycled products; and [HB 4885](#), relating to programs established and funded under the Texas emissions reduction plan.

- HB 3060: see [Texas Municipal League's](#) summary and [Greater Houston Partnership's](#) summary.
- HB 4885: see [Public Citizen's](#) analysis and [Sierra Club's](#) summary.

**Impact of New EPA Air Quality Regulations:** Evaluate and address the implications of recent EPA regulations proposed and promulgated rules to assess their collective impact on air quality in Texas. Examine the necessity for a new State Implementation Plan and explore potential legislative measures to ensure a balanced approach that promotes regulatory compliance while preserving economic vitality, especially in counties identified as at risk of violation.

**Texas Hydrogen Industry:** Evaluate the environmental impacts of the industrial development of emerging markets for hydrogen, including production, transportation, storage, power generation, and other competitive market opportunities. Make recommendations needed to build a competitive hydrogen industry in the state.



## Committee on Natural Resources

**Monitoring:** Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 88th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure the intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following: [SB 28](#), relating to financial assistance provided and programs administered by the Texas Water Development Board.

- SB 28: see [Sierra Club's](#) analysis.

**Water Reuse Expansion:** Examine opportunities to expand the reuse of waters in Texas as an additional water supply and identify funding deficiencies for water reuse projects and regulatory impediments that make expansion of water reuse difficult in Texas.

**Groundwater Infrastructure:** Examine Texas groundwater data infrastructure, data collection, and monitoring practices and identify policy solutions for improvement in the areas of understanding local groundwater conditions; groundwater modeling for planning and decision-making; and resource management.

## Committee on State Affairs

**Monitoring (9:00 AM, Monday, July 8, 2024) Hearing Notice:** Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 88th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure the intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following: [HB 2555](#), relating to transmission and distribution system resiliency planning by and cost recovery for electric utilities; [HB 5174](#), relating to the establishment and administration of the Texas Semiconductor Innovation Consortium; [SB 1699](#), relating to electricity service in the ERCOT power region, including the participation of aggregated distributed energy resources in the ERCOT market; and [SB 2627](#), relating to funding mechanisms to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities.

- HB 2555: see [City of Houston's](#) summary and analysis.
- HB 5174: see [Greater Houston Partnership's](#) summary.
- SB 1699: see [Sierra Club's](#) statement.
- SB 2627: see [Environment Texas](#), [Public Citizen](#), and [Sierra Club](#).



## Committee on State Affairs (Cont.)

**Review TWIA Funding:** Review current state policy as it relates to the operation and funding of the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA), including state agency capacity to effectively oversee TWIA. Evaluate the ability of state agencies and instrumentalities to secure the seacoast region's ability to produce energy and advance science and technology, including the role of reinsurance in maintaining economic security and ways to reduce the burden of reinsurance purchases on energy production and scientific and technological advances, while maintaining adequate coverage for policyholders.

**Panhandle Wildfires:** Evaluate the findings and recommendations of the Investigative Committee on the Panhandle Wildfires that are within the committee's jurisdiction and develop related legislative solutions and other actions for preventing future wildfires and improving wildfire disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation.

## Committee on Transportation

**Port Infrastructure and Maritime Industry:** Study long-term needs of the maritime industry in Texas. Evaluate the implementation status of the Maritime Port Mission Plan and make recommendations to improve port planning, safety measures, and project delivery. Examine status of TxDOT seaport projects that received funding during the 88th Legislature

**Alleviating Road Traffic:** Identify the state's most congested roadways and review state forecasts for future congestion and the expected impact on economic activity. Evaluate TxDOT plans for alleviating congestion and consider the necessity of additional options to ensure economic development, congestion, and safety goals are achieved in a timely manner with reduced cost to public tax dollars.

## Committee on Ways & Means

**Monitoring:** Monitor the agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction and oversee the implementation of relevant legislation passed by the 88th Legislature. Conduct active oversight of all associated rulemaking and other governmental actions taken to ensure the intended legislative outcome of all legislation, including the following: [HB 5](#), the Texas Jobs, Energy, Technology, and Innovation Act, relating to agreements authorizing a limitation on taxable value of certain property to provide for the creation of jobs and the generation of state and local tax revenue; authorizing fees; authorizing penalties

- HB 5: see [Environment Texas](#), [Public Citizen](#), and [Sierra Club](#).



# POWERHOUSE TEXAS

## TEXAS ENERGY & CLIMATE CAUCUS

### SENATE INTERIM COMMITTEE CHARGES

See the full list [here](#).

#### SCHEDULED

**10:00 AM, Wednesday, May 15, 2024** - Committee on Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs (Water System Reliability) [Hearing Notice](#)

**9:00 AM, Wednesday, June 12, 2024** - Committee on Business & Commerce (Electricity Market Design, Transmitting Texas Power, Impact of Bitcoin Mining on the Texas Electric Grid) [Hearing Notice](#)

**10:00 AM, Thursday, June 13, 2024** - Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development (Overcoming Federal Incompetence) [Hearing Notice](#)

**10:00 AM, Wednesday, September 3, 2024** - Committee on Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs (Monitoring) [Hearing Notice](#)

**10:00 AM, Tuesday, September 17, 2024** - Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development (Cement Production Plans, Enhancing Workforce Productivity) [Hearing Notice](#)

**9:00 AM, Wednesday, September 18, 2024** - Committee on Transportation (The Future of Our Economy) [Hearing Notice](#)

### Committee on Business & Commerce

**Electricity Market Design (9:00 AM, Wednesday, June 12, 2024)** [Hearing Notice](#): Assess state efforts to provide incentives for new thermal generation. Review and report on the state of the electricity market in Texas and issues impacting the reliability and resiliency of the Texas electric grid. Consider rulemaking related to wholesale market design, including the impact of these changes on grid reliability, market revenues, costs to consumers, and the efficiency of operations. Examine and report on the direct and indirect impacts that variable resources, such as wind and solar, have on grid resiliency, consumer prices, and market uncertainty. Monitor the implementation of [House Bill 1500](#), 88th Legislature.

- HB 1500: see [Environment Texas](#), [Public Citizen](#), and [Sierra Club](#).



## Committee on Business & Commerce (Cont.)

**Innovative Power Generation:** Explore emerging technologies with the potential to add new dispatchable power to our electric grid including, but not limited, to small modular nuclear reactors, advanced batteries, and new developments in hydrogen and geothermal resources. Identify and recommend regulatory and policy actions required to deploy emerging technologies within the state's electric grid.

**Transmitting Texas Power (9:00 AM, Wednesday, June 12, 2024) Hearing Notice:** Identify the future electric transmission and distribution system needs of the state and recommend ways to reduce barriers to constructing the necessary electric infrastructure to support the growing demand and changes in technology. Review and make any necessary recommendations to enhance legislation passed during the 88th legislative session, including the status of projects to improve the safety and resiliency of the transmission system, as well as the effect of current and future projects on consumer costs.

**Managing Texas Sized Growth:** Evaluate the state's ability to keep pace with increasing electricity demand related to population growth and energy intensive technologies such as electric vehicles and data centers. Recommend ways to increase reliability via demand-side response programs. Study ERCOT's forecasting methodology and recommend ways to increase transparency. Monitor ongoing efforts at the Public Utility Commission related to energy efficiency programs and distributed energy resources, including the implementation of [Senate Bill 1699](#), 88th Legislature.

- SB 1699: see [Sierra Club's](#) statement.

**Impact of Bitcoin Mining on the Texas Electric Grid (9:00 AM, Wednesday, June 12, 2024) Hearing Notice:** Study the impact of energy-intensive cryptocurrency mining facilities on the Texas electric grid. Report on whether any changes should be made to ERCOT demand response programs and large flexible load registration requirements to limit the impact of these facilities on system reliability and consumer costs.



## Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development

**Overcoming Federal Incompetence (10:00 AM, Thursday, June 13, 2024) [Hearing Notice](#):**

Consider the impact to the Texas economy from federal interference including, but not limited to, restricting liquified natural gas exports, supply chain limitations, a net-zero carbon agenda, and other air emission provisions. Report on what impact these federal interferences will have on the Texas economy and workforce, and make recommendations to minimize the damage to Texas.

**Cement Production Plants (10:00 AM, Tuesday, September 17, 2024) [Hearing Notice](#):**

Examine the impacts of permanent cement production plants on local communities. Make recommendations to ensure they are strategically situated and uphold community standards while also fostering economic development.

**Enhancing Workforce Productivity:** Study ways to increase the state's workforce productivity, including access to childcare. Make recommendations, within existing resources, to maintain childcare availability to support a growing workforce.

## Committee on Transportation

**The Future of Our Economy (9:00 AM, Wednesday, September 18, 2024) [Hearing Notice](#):**

Evaluate President Biden's plan to transition to all-electric vehicles, and the impact on Texans and the state economy. Assess and report on the viability of the charging infrastructure, including the need for more charging stations and upgrades to the power grid, loss of gas tax revenue for transportation and public education, barriers to widespread adoption such as consumer costs for purchasing new vehicles and installing residential charging infrastructure, and the impacts to the oil and gas economy in Texas.



## Committee on Water, Agriculture & Rural Affairs

**Water System Reliability (10:00 AM, Wednesday, May 15, 2024) Hearing Notice:** Evaluate water systems in Texas and identify opportunities to better equip those systems to serve the public. Review the coordination of relevant state agencies dealing with Texas water issues and identify opportunities for improved coordination and effectiveness.

**Monitoring (10:00 AM, Tuesday, September 3, 2024) Hearing Notice:** Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs passed by the 88th Legislature, as well as relevant agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction. Specifically, make recommendations for any legislation needed to improve, enhance, or complete implementation of the following:

- [Senate Bill 28](#), relating to financial assistance provided and programs administered by the Texas Water Development Board;
- [Senate Bill 1289](#), relating to the disposal of reclaimed wastewater;
- [Senate Bill 1414](#), relating to the temporary regulation of the practice of veterinary medicine by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation; and
- [Senate Bill 1648](#), relating to the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund.

THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED BY THE POWERHOUSE TEXAS  
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