

# VOTE NO ON SB 819

**SB 819** imposes extensive and unnecessary permitting and siting requirements, environmental impact fees, and operational restrictions on clean energy projects, creating regulatory barriers that would hinder Texas clean energy growth. The bill unfairly targets low-impact, emissions-free power sources, limiting energy diversification, raising consumer costs, and harming Texas landowners and the economy.

A February 2025 study from IdeaSmiths, LLC states that **legislation that halts clean energy, such as SB 819, could raise power prices on Texas consumer by as much as \$115 billion over 15 years.**

Perhaps the unnecessary nature of SB 819 is summed up best by **TCEQ's Lifecycle Assessment of Wind, Solar, Battery Storage**, which was required by **SB 1290** (88th Session):

**"THE STATE OF TEXAS HAS AN ESTABLISHED REGULATORY FRAMEWORK TO MANAGE THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF SOLAR, WIND, AND ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS ON THE ENVIRONMENT."**

## WHY SB 819 IS BAD FOR TEXAS

### RAISES POWER COSTS & THREATENS GRID RELIABILITY

- Solar power is one of the lowest-cost electricity sources on the grid. SB 819 will raise Texans' electricity bills by increasing project capital and operational costs that will be passed on to all consumers.
- Texas is facing explosive growth in demand for power. Solar is among the fastest generation sources that can be developed.
- SB 819 creates a hostile and uncertain environment for solar power that will slow or halt its growth, creating resource adequacy concerns. Texas cannot afford for solar power to be chased from the grid. We need an all-of-the-above energy strategy to meet the power demand of a growing economy.

### EXPANDS GOVERNMENT REGULATION

- SB 819 requires a new costly, arbitrary, and discriminatory permitting process with additional compliance requirements not imposed on other power generation sources or energy industries.
- SB 819 not only increases unnecessary red tape and bureaucracy but also requires a costly and time-consuming environmental impact review despite the minimal environmental impact of solar. Industry has demonstrated a growing commitment to ensuring multiple land uses, agrivoltaics, and conservation married to stringent decommissioning and land restoration requirements.
- Heightened project delays and uncertainty, combined with discriminatory new fees and taxes, will stifle solar investment and with it the lower power prices, landowner payments, and tax benefits to local communities that these projects today deliver.

### HARMS PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

- SB 819 would impose the judgment of government officials in Austin for those of private property owners on the highest and best use of their private property.
- Unlike other energy developments that can use eminent domain, solar projects rely entirely on private negotiations between landowners and energy companies. Often the revenue produced by these leases is critical to keeping farms, ranches, and land in the hands of families that have owned it for generations.
- Landowners hold decision-making authority when considering solar development activities – they can decide what they want and don't want on their land. SB 819 deprives working families who make a living from their land of potential economic opportunities to support their families and livelihood.

### ELIMINATES ECONOMIC INCENTIVES & LOCAL DECISION MAKING

- SB 819 removes solar from long-standing, community-driven county tax abatements that have supported billions in new investment in rural Texas. These tax abatements are voluntary – local governments can choose to offer them or not. Removing this tool will:
  - Make it harder for rural communities to attract new investment;
  - Reduce landowner income and economic opportunities; and
  - Slash funding that would otherwise be available to support schools, infrastructure, and services.