



A Blow to Consumers and the ERCOT Market

CSSB 715 guts compromise legislation from 2023 and sacrifices both grid reliability and consumer interests in order to target renewables. Despite claims to the contrary, **the Committee Substitute makes the bill worse—not better.**

The bill maintains retroactive mandates for renewables while carving out aging thermal plants—all under the false promise of “increased reliability.”

CSSB 715

BREAKS THE DEAL

HB 1500 (Schwertner/Holland, 2023) created fair, forward-looking firming rules for new generation. CSSB 715 reverses the deal—**changing the rules after the fact and inviting lawsuits under Texas's constitutional contract protections.** The bill:

- Exempts aging thermal plants, while penalizing renewables
- Requires solar to firm at night, punishing a predictable resource for its known characteristics that have enhanced reliability at peak demand
- Strips ERCOT's authority to define firming hours, undermining the grid operator's role and threatening the contribution of batteries

PUNISHES CONSUMERS

The bill acknowledges it will drive up costs—authorizing the PUCT to phase in penalties “to mitigate market disruptions” caused by higher bills.

- Existing firming mandates could raise wholesale solar costs alone by up to \$1.6 billion annually—costs that would be passed directly to consumers, with no reliability benefit in return.
- Retroactive rules would make things worse, impacting the lowest-cost resources and costing Texans nearly \$900 million every month.
- As ERCOT CEO Pablo Vegas warned, punitive policies like this are a “tax” on generation.

THREATENS RELIABILITY

While ERCOT projects demand will double in years ahead, this bill imposes costly, discriminatory rules on existing generation—**driving them out of the market, deterring new investment and harming reliability.**

Meanwhile, reliability has improved thanks to solar and storage. In fact, ERCOT issued zero conservation calls in 2024, and reserves are increasing—leading the **Dallas Federal Reserve to observe that solar and batteries “saved the Texas grid last summer.”**

DESTROYS THE ERCOT MARKET

CSSB 715 abandons ERCOT's foundational principles of non-discrimination, open access and market competition.

It injects chaos into the regulatory framework, telling investors: **Texas can change the rules at any time.**

VOTE NO on CSSB 715 to protect Texas consumers and the power grid!