

## ***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!**