

Senate Bill 715 (Sparks/Patterson)

A Direct Attack on Grid Reliability and Texas Ratepayers

What SB 715 Does

Last session, the Legislature adopted firming requirements for *new* generation in HB 1500 (88-R). **SB 715 rolls back that progress with discriminatory, retroactive mandates** on existing projects—**inviting lawsuits** under the Texas Constitution, which provides stronger contract protections than federal law.

The Senate-passed version includes language meant to appear non-retroactive but, in practice, the bill **imposes unplanned costs** on facilities financed under prior assumptions. These costs will **force early retirements of existing generation**—something ERCOT has warned that our grid cannot afford.

For what benefit? Thanks to recent reforms and strong solar and storage performance, ERCOT reliability has improved: no conservation calls in 2024 or 2025; growing reserve margins; and lower prices for Texas ratepayers.

SB 715 threatens to reverse this progress. A nationally recognized consultancy projects **\$1.6 billion in annual costs** for new solar alone—a cost that will rise sharply if applied to existing projects and one that will be paid by your constituents.

Why it Doesn't Work

SB 715 includes:

- Unconstitutional retroactive mandates
- Exemptions for aging, less reliable power plants
- Unrealistic deadlines that cancel projects midstream
- Carveouts for existing PPAs—but not other contracts or future PPAs
- Limited ability for ERCOT to define most efficient, cost-effective firming hours
- Punitive price caps that undermine market competition

This bill sends a clear message: Texas will change the rules midstream—chilling investment in power generation and the energy-intensive industries that fuel the “Texas Miracle.” SB 715 isn’t just bad policy—it’s bad for business.

The Bottom Line

 **A vote for Senate Bill 715 is a vote to raise electricity bills, remove power from the grid, and drive investment out of Texas.**

VOTE NO on SB 715!