

July 14, 2006

Paul Hudson, Chair  
Julie Parsley, Commissioner  
Barry Smitherman, Commissioner  
Public Utility Commission of Texas  
1701 N. Congress Ave.  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Commissioners:

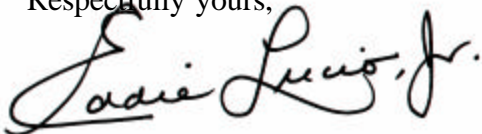
I am requesting that you approve the petition submitted by the Office of the Public Utility Counsel and consumer groups for an emergency rule to suspend disconnection of electric utility services for residential critical care customers and the elderly during the months of July, August, and September (Project No. 32874).

The combined effect of high temperatures and record electricity rates has created a strain on the health and pocketbooks of Texans. Many Texans are already facing dire circumstances because the LITE-UP Texas program was not funded for the 2006-2007 biennium. This assistance program offered a critical discount to my low-income constituents. I have seen an overwhelming increase in case work related to burdensome utility bills as a result of all these factors.

A moratorium on electric utility disconnection is absolutely necessary to protect the health and safety of our most vulnerable Texas population during these peak summer months. Current rules do not provide enough protection. The moratorium is one form of relief we can offer needy Texans until the Legislature can act to restore LITE-UP Texas and establish other avenues of assistance for the public.

Please give careful consideration to this petition.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eddie Lucio, Jr." in a cursive script.

Eddie Lucio, Jr.  
Texas State Senator  
Senate District 27