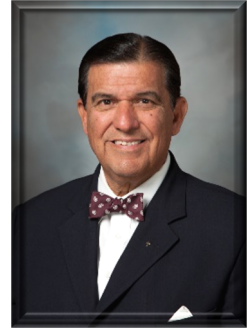




**STATE SENATOR
EDDIE LUCIO, JR.
DISTRICT 27**



THE SENATE OF TEXAS
State Capitol, 3S.
512-463-0127

SEN. LUCIO STATEMENT REGARDING ERCOT AND THE HISTORIC WINTER STORM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Contact: Ruben O’Bell, Chief of Staff
(512) 463-0127

BROWNSVILLE, TX – Today, Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) issued the following statement regarding the current unfolding situation regarding the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (“ERCOT”):

"I am devastated by the current tragedy facing our state. Over the last 72 hours, I have heard from constituents, family, and friends. Many of them have been without power or heat for days. Others do not have food or adequate shelter to protect themselves from the cold. What started off as planned rolling blackouts has turned into a nightmare for many Texans – one they never thought they would face.

“There are many questions that need to be answered and conversations that need to be had in order to get to the bottom of this tragedy and to ensure that it never happens again. I want to thank Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and Speaker Dade Phelan for promptly calling for investigative hearings in both the House and Senate. I also want to thank Gov. Greg Abbott for adding ERCOT reform as an Emergency Item. Accordingly, the Legislature can address these issues immediately. As we move forward, I am committed to working diligently with my Senate colleagues to ensure that Texans are never faced with a situation like this again.

“In the meantime, I will be working with ERCOT, energy providers, and local officials to get the most updated information to you and I will do what I can to ensure that those without power are restored power as quickly as possible.

"A Texan without power, especially during this historic winter storm, is one too many. I am praying for our state and for each and every one of you during this time.”

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Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D – Harlingen) represents Cameron, Hidalgo, Kenedy, Kleberg, and Willacy Counties. He is the Vice-Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance; Vice-Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education; Member of the Senate Committees on State Affairs; Natural Resources & Economic Development; of the Special Committee on Redistricting; and, of the Select Committee Texas Ports. He is member of the Sunset Advisory Commission, DSHS COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Advisory Panel, and has been an ex-officio member of the DSHS Task Force of Border Public Health Officials since 2017. Elected in 1991, Lucio is third in seniority in the Texas Senate.