



# Public Statement

## Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.

### SEN. LUCIO STATEMENT REGARDING OUTRAGEOUS ENERGY BILLS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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

**BROWNSVILLE, TX** – Today Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D-Brownsville) issued the following statement regarding outrageous energy bills after the historic winter storm:

“Over the weekend, I participated in a call with Governor Greg Abbott, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, and several of my colleagues in both the Texas House and Texas Senate. Gov. Abbott called this emergency meeting to discuss the outrageous energy bills some Texans may face in response to the winter storm. Unfortunately, Texans on ERCOT’s power grid are not exempt from the possible extreme utility charges.

“Under our current system, all consumers are responsible for paying their utility bills, no matter the amount. In our meeting yesterday, lawmakers discussed short-term and long-term solutions to this issue and the many others that have come to light. These solutions include relief for any Texan who is faced with unusually high energy bills. While the Legislature has convened several investigatory meetings into these issues, I am optimistic that we can come up with the necessary solutions to help any Texan in need.

“Preliminary estimates project that ERCOT will have lost \$8 billion to \$40 billion. I stand today to assure you that I will work tirelessly to ensure that consumers are not burdened with the responsibility of paying this bill.

“In the meantime, I urge all Texans to follow the recommendations by the Texas Office of Public Utility Counsel – please review your residential electricity rate plan. If you see a significant increase in your electric bill, disable any applicable auto-pay options and contact your provider to address your concerns. If you are unsatisfied with your response, file a complaint with the Public Utility Commission of Texas.”

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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.*