



American Planning Association
Texas Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

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Thank you, Chairman Paddie, for the opportunity to present the following information from the American Planning Association - Texas Chapter. My name is **Chance Sparks** and I represent the American Planning Association - Texas Chapter, and we are testifying **in favor of HB 11**. The Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association (APATX) represents public and private sector planners, planning academics and students, elected officials, and citizen planners in the great state of Texas.

Increasing our communities' resiliency to all types of disasters has been a stated priority for APATX for many years now, and we are excited to work alongside the Legislature. The recent winter storm is just the latest example of how underprepared our infrastructure system has become in Texas. HB 11 makes reasonable strides to ensure that we are prepared for the next weather-related disaster and make no mistake; the next weather-related disaster is just a matter of time.

Requiring electric generation and transmission companies to implement measures to be prepared for weather-related disasters is of life-and-death importance. By having a plan in place before disaster strikes, Texas communities can be aware of the responsibilities our partners in the electric utility industry have and the preparations they should be making. Restoring power is a necessity to reestablish normalcy after a disaster. As we've seen with hurricanes along the Gulf coast, it is impossible to begin the recovery process without the lights on (or the A/C).

HB 11 is an important first step towards infrastructure resiliency and we applaud the legislature and Governor Abbott for making it a priority. The Legislature should continue the work to weatherize the infrastructure systems deployed throughout the state. In addition, we believe the Legislature should encourage private homes and business to weatherize as well, to reduce their own energy costs and risks and to lower the peak demand on the system in times of crisis.

Our APATX members have served on national boards regarding infrastructure resiliency and have the real-world experience needed to address the state's infrastructure needs. I invite the members here today to meet with us and learn more about what the state can do to prepare even further for natural and man-made disasters.

Thank you for your time, and I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Chance Sparks, AICP, President
American Planning Association - Texas Chapter