



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 13**. 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.

HB 13 addresses a critical need facing the state, the need to prepare our infrastructure systems better to respond to disasters. In particular, the requirement to maintain records of critical infrastructure facilities is a much-needed requirement. The state's fast growth has led to more fire stations, schools, and police stations being built in our communities. Having a central repository of these locations will hopefully prevent service outages to other critical infrastructure, which are necessary to maintain essential functions.

Preparing for improved infrastructure resilience is something planners take the lead on within our respective communities. Our work on hazard mitigation plans, risk and resilience assessments, overall comprehensive plans and codes, and capital improvement programs means that we can be good partners in helping the Legislature to understand the respective impacts to critical infrastructure from disasters and grid unreliability.

Requiring the Energy Disaster Reliability Council to study methods to maintain reliability is a proactive step to ensuring communities can respond to disasters. As these "once in a lifetime" disasters become more prevalent, the state needs to plan ahead to mitigate the human costs of 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

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