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The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator Peter P. Flores

District 24

May 5, 2026

Chairman Thomas Gleeson and PUC Commissioners
The Public Utility Commission of Texas
1701 Congress Ave,
Austin, TX 78701

RE: Bell County East to Big Hill 765kV – Docket 59475

Dear Chairman Gleeson and Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bell County East to Big Hill 765-kV Transmission Line project currently under consideration.

I understand the need to strengthen the electric grid, and I do not take that lightly. Texans saw what can happen when the grid is under real stress, and reliability matters. But reliability does not give the state a blank check. A project of this size should only move forward if the route is truly the best one available, the costs are justified, and the burden on local communities has been carefully minimized.

The concerns I am hearing from people back home are serious. Burnet County's commissioners court has said this line could harm natural resources, historic archeological sites, parks, tourism, land values, and roads, and it raised real concern that landowners were not brought into the process early enough. It also asked the Commission to consider alternate routes outside Burnet County and to delay filing until those concerns are addressed. That matches what I am hearing from landowners in the affected counties: they are not asking to ignore the needs of the grid, they are asking not to be treated as collateral damage.

I am also concerned about the way this kind of project affects private property rights. Families in these counties have built homes, ranches, and businesses over generations. They should not be asked to absorb the impact of a 765-kV line unless the Commission is satisfied that the route has been narrowly and carefully drawn, that every reasonable alternative has been considered, and that the public has had a fair chance to participate. Representative Buckley's recent letter made the same basic point: the public notice and outreach have not been good enough for a project of this magnitude.

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For those reasons, I urge the Commission to slow down and scrutinize the Bell County East to Big Hill proposal closely before any final route is approved. If there is a way to meet the state's reliability needs with less harm to landowners and less disruption to the communities in Bell County, Burnet County, Coryell County, and Lampasas County, the Commission should require that option to be fully considered.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pete Flores", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pete Flores

State Senator – District 24