



April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Senate Committee on Business and Commerce

## Testimony Supporting SB258

Chairman Schwertner, Vice-Chair King and Members of the Committee:

The Texas Advanced Energy Business Alliance (TAEBA) supports Senate Bill 258, which proposes to set energy efficiency goals for electric utilities in Texas. This bill is a critical step in promoting energy efficiency, reducing energy costs for consumers, and improving the reliability and resiliency of the electric grid in Texas.

Energy efficiency programs have been proven to be effective in reducing energy consumption and lowering energy bills for consumers. In Texas, such programs have saved customers over \$5 billion in energy costs since 2009.<sup>1</sup>

Setting energy efficiency goals for electric utilities in Texas will encourage investment in energy efficiency programs, resulting in significant energy savings for consumers. This bill will also stimulate innovation and job creation in the advanced energy industry, further contributing to the economic growth of Texas.

TAEBA supports the provisions in SB258 that require the Public Utility Commission of Texas to establish a method for each utility's annual savings goal and provide cost caps and exceptions for utilities that cannot meet the goals in a cost-effective manner. These provisions will ensure that the energy efficiency goals are achievable, affordable, and beneficial to both consumers and utilities.

In conclusion, TAEBA strongly supports Senate Bill 258 and urges the Texas Legislature to pass this bill to promote energy efficiency, reduce energy costs, and strengthen the resilience and reliability of the electric grid in Texas.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matthew Boms, Executive Director

/s/ Micalah Spenrath, Policy Principal

Texas Advanced Energy Business Alliance

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<sup>1</sup> Environmental Defense Fund. "Texas Report to Legislators: 2021 Edition." (2021). <https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/texas-report-to-legislators.pdf>