

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 17, 2021

Chairman Richard Glick  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Glick,

The extreme weather events of the last few days have caused a massive failure to deliver electricity to those who desperately need it. The inability of some power plants to produce electricity when our communities need it most has meant a great deal of suffering for those affected by the blackouts. A federal emergency has been declared across all 254 counties in Texas and millions of Texas families are still without power with restoration likely days away.

As a result of these events, policymakers from across the political spectrum have called for investigations and potential reforms to our energy system. Texas Governor Greg Abbott has even declared the reform of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) an emergency item for the 2021 legislative session.

In the days and weeks to come, we will be examining the questions of infrastructure related causes, what measures can be taken to properly weatherize and insulate our power plants, and what interregional transmission that could bring in electricity from other areas of the country would mean for the Texas grid.

We are writing to express my support for the joint FERC-NERC investigation that was announced on February 16. While we agree that the emphasis now should be on restoring power to the millions of Americans who are suffering, we expect this investigation to thoroughly explore any and all reasons that led to this failure. We also stand ready to aid this investigation in any way we can, and we look forward to reviewing the results of this investigation to see what next steps need to be taken to ensure that this does not happen again.

We are also interested in starting a conversation on the benefits and challenges of allowing limited energy transfers into ERCOT territory in certain emergency situations. We understand that there are a number of legal, technical, and infrastructure hurdles that will need to be overcome for greater interconnection. We firmly believe that every option should be explored so that we can avoid another catastrophic power failure.

We hope to hear from you soon. We look forward to working with you and the relevant stakeholders here in Texas on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress