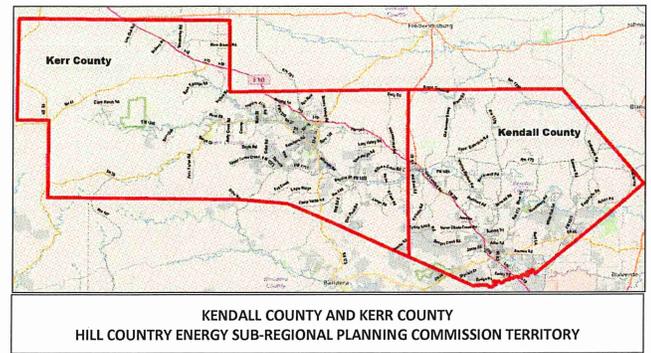


# HILL COUNTRY ENERGY SUB-REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



May 16, 2025

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

## Repeal or Eliminate All “Green” Subsidies, Grants and Loans

Dear President Trump,

First, I want to thank you for pulling the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement, for declaring a “national energy emergency” and urging oil and gas expansion, for directing all federal agencies to immediately pause the disbursement of funds appropriated through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 or the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and for rescinding \$4B in US pledges for UN climate fund. I greatly appreciate your leadership in each of these matters.

However, I urge you go a step further to instruct the executive branch of the federal government to stop all subsidies, grants and loans associated with so called “green” or renewable energy projects. Not only will this save US taxpayers billions of dollars, but more importantly it will help remove the energy market distortions that have been created.

These market distortions have been particularly harmful to my home state of Texas where nearly \$20 billion has been funneled into the state since 2006 to support so called “green” renewable energy. Texas is now overly reliant on unreliable wind and solar energy (>40% of our electric generation capacity comes from wind and solar sources) and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas is now trying to stabilize our unreliable grid by installing over 900 federally subsidized, high-risk Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) across Texas. BESS buy excess power from the grid at off-peak rates, and sell it back into the grid at peak rates whenever required (e.g., every sunset), but only discharge power at most 4 hours per cycle. BESS developers rely on the massive federal subsidies that can pay for up to 70% of their project’s capital costs. Without these federal subsidies, loans and grants; BESS, solar and wind power projects would not exist.

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There are numerous problems with BESS facilities but the biggest concern is that lithium battery facilities have a history of explosions and thermal runaway fires, which are nearly impossible to extinguish (our volunteer fire departments lack sufficient foam and water). The recent fire at the Moss Landing BESS facility in Monterey County, California, was a complete disaster that resulted in the evacuation of 1,500 people, a huge plume of toxic smoke that lasted nearly a week and released carbon monoxide, methane, hydrogen fluoride, hydrogen cyanide and formaldehyde which contaminated the soil and water in the surrounding area. One fire like that in Texas would be too many, especially in our beautiful drought prone hill country where we are dependent on shallow aquifers for our water!

BESS also pose a cybersecurity risk because they are unmanned, controlled remotely and many of the critical components are made in China. Our Dept. of Defense has realized the threat associated with battery and control system components made in China and have removed them from all US military facilities. Here in Texas, and especially in counties with populations under 250,000 there are no regulations for BESS, wind or solar development projects. Predictably, BESS developers target the unincorporated areas of small counties where local government has no authority to stop them. Sadly, despite the known risks, Texas continues to allow China made components to be installed where they could be used to take our grid down.

Texas desperately needs much greater regulation on the location and type of energy development that is connected to our grid. Numerous BESS related bills are under consideration in our 89<sup>th</sup> legislative session, although few are likely to pass. However, the best solution would be the removal of the economic distortions created by federal subsidies, loans, grants and other tax incentives available to “green energy” developers. So once again, I urge you to use your executive order authority to instruct the executive branch of the federal government to stop all subsidies, grants and loans associated with so called “green” or renewable energy projects. Thank you for all you are doing for us.

Sincerely yours,



Richard S. Paces

President, **Hill Country Energy Sub-Regional Planning Commission**

Kerr County Commissioner, Precinct 2

Center Point Volunteer Firefighter

*Note: The Hill Country Energy Sub-Regional Planning Commission is a Texas Chapter 391 Government Entity aimed at Opposing BESS development in Kerr and Kendall Counties*

Cc: Chip Roy, US Congress, 21st District of Texas