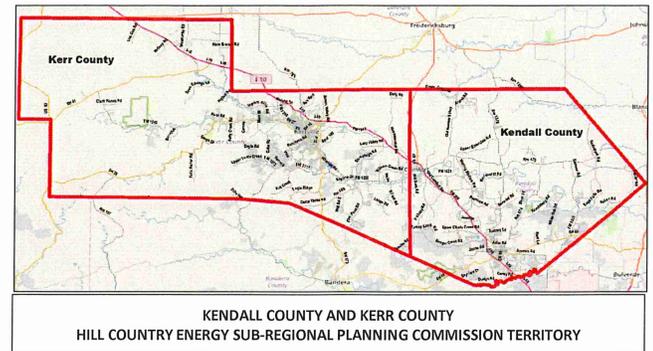


# HILL COUNTRY ENERGY SUB-REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION



September 3, 2025

Lee Zeldin, EPA Administrator  
Office of the Administrator, MC 1101A  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

## Eliminate All Wind, Solar and Battery Energy Storage System Subsidies, Grants and Loans

Dear Sir,

I strongly encourage the EPA to rescind the 2009 “endangerment finding” that falsely claimed that CO<sub>2</sub> endangers public health and welfare. This false “finding” was the basis for a host of burdensome EPA regulations that threaten our economy and our way of life. Please also rescind and eliminate all federal subsidies, grants and loans for so called “green” energy consisting of wind, solar and Battery Energy Storage System projects. The disbursement of any federal funds made available for these “green” projects through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 or the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act should be immediately paused and rescinded. 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 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 one 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 DOD has realized the threat associated with battery and control system components made in China and removed them from all US military facilities. Here in Texas, and especially in counties with populations under 250,000, wind, solar and BESS development projects are largely unregulated. Predictably, BESS developers target unincorporated areas of small counties where local government has no authority to stop them and state governmental bodies such as Public Utilities Commission of Texas and the LCRA refuse to coordinate development planning for BESS with sub-regional planning commissions, such as the HCESRPC\* which I represent, even though they are required to do so under Chapter 391 of the Texas Local Government Code. 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 were considered in our 89<sup>th</sup> legislative session, however only two bills passed with no material impact. Hence, we look to the EPA and the Trump Administration to remove the economic distortions created by federal subsidies, loans, grants and other tax incentives available to “green energy” developers. Instead, I urge you to support oil and gas expansion, and in particular to encourage the use of natural gas, our cleanest energy source, to fuel the generation of electric power across the nation. Thank you for all you are doing to eliminate the climate hoax that has failed the American people and only served the interests of our greatest foreign adversary.

Sincerely yours,



Richard S. Paces  
President, Hill Country Energy Sub-Regional Planning Commission  
and Kerr County Commissioner, Precinct 2

*\*Note: The Hill Country Energy Sub-Regional Planning Commission (HCESRPC) is a Texas Chapter 391 Government Entity formed to oppose BESS development in Kerr & Kendall Counties.*

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

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