

RESOLUTION NUMBER _____

Resolution of the _____ ISD Board

Supporting Rural Texas as a valuable part of the State's Economy, Production and export of both Traditional and Renewable energy, and Food and Fiber for our State and the World.

WHEREAS, Rural Texas population is greater than 20 of the United States including Iowa, our 3,000,000 plus population is very important to Texas;

WHEREAS, Rural Texas is where Texas Energy is produced, transported to market by trucks, railroads, pipelines and transmission lines, and infrastructure of all types are very important to our needs;

WHEREAS, The United States benefits from adding renewable resources such as wind energy to its portfolio of electric generation sources, as wind energy consumes no water, produces no emissions and can provide low-cost electricity at stable pricing, providing a hedge against volatile pricing of fossil fuel-fired generation including the costly regulations being enacted by the EPA:

WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature has also recognized the need for development of new sources of energy to meet Texas' growing demand for electricity, by directing the Public Utility Commission to designate Competitive Renewable Energy Zones in areas throughout the State that had the potential for production of cost-effective renewable energy;

WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature directed the PUC to ensure that transmission infrastructure was built as needed to transmit electricity to market and they accomplished that goal by having private companies build the CREZ transmission lines that travel 3600 miles across rural Texas with no cost to the State. These costs of approximately 7 billion dollars will be paid to the private builders over time by electricity users of the ERCOT grid and this initiative should be fully completed;

WHEREAS, rural communities across the State of Texas have seen their population get older and many of our young people are leaving to find jobs elsewhere, our greatest need is good jobs for our citizens;

WHEREAS, The Texas Economic Development Act, sometimes known as Chapter 313 of our tax code is our only effective tool we have to incent good jobs in rural Texas because small counties do not have the assets to hire professional economic development organizations;

WHEREAS, the Texas Panhandle, South Plains, West Texas and Rolling Plains and some South Texas Counties need the energy activity, especially compared to the areas with higher population density, and are more attractive and suitable for it because this is where the energy is and we have less barriers and more need for jobs;

THEREFORE, WE PRAY THAT THE CURRENT ENERGY POLICIES FOR WIND, OIL AND GAS AND OTHER COMMODITIES REMAIN UNCHANGED AS WELL AS THE TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY _____ ISD ,THAT OUR LEGISLATURE HEAR OUR PLEA.

PASSED THIS DATE _____

President _____

Secretary: _____

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DAVID SWINFORD, Retired

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Dear ISD Board President,

In 2001, the legislature passed HB 1200 creating the Texas Economic Development Act. It is referred to as Chapter 313 of our tax code. I authored the Rural Section of the legislation and it has been a great success in many of our rural counties. It is pure local control because it makes no appropriation of state funds. It allows our local schools to work with the county, city and local economic development efforts by limiting the appraisal for tax purposes for a period of time so we can compete with other states since our combined property taxes are so high. This program makes us competitive and has resulted in billions of new investment in rural Texas. Your County may have used this legislation or may not have used it up to now. My issue is that it is the only economic development program a rural area has to bring new investment and good jobs into the community.

The best way I can explain the importance of protecting this Economic Development Act is the real effect we have seen in Nolen County. In 1999 they had a market value of 587 million dollars. In 2009, the market value was 2.8 billion dollars. The tax rate dropped from 40 cents to 30 cents. In other words, every single person in the county has benefitted by this program.

This rural program has come under attack by people that do not understand that it has not cost the State of Texas any money but has saved many rural communities. You may not be aware but rural Texas is the home to over 3 million plus citizens. We are larger in population than Iowa and 25 other states. We are an important asset to Texas.

Similarly, maybe your area has been helped by the CREZ transmission lines for wind and other electric generators or development of traditional energy resources. Rural Texas is where energy of every form comes from, and we supply energy across the state and for export. More is possible. We need Texas Legislators to assure completion of the CREZ lines as intended, and keep the current programs for renewable or traditional energy. It is what has makes Texas great.

I need your help. I intend to contact over 100 counties, cities and school districts asking them to pass the resolution attached to this letter so I can present these to the committees that will be studying energy, electricity and economic development issues.

Please pass this Resolution and return it to me as soon as possible because the Legislature will be in session this month. I will be carrying all passed resolutions to all the members of the important committees and to all Legislators of rural Texas. Please make your local legislator aware of these resolutions. I can assure you that your legislator wants to know what you want.

Sincerely Yours,


David Swinford

State Representative, District 87, Retired