



Texas Public Power Association

**TESTIMONY OF MARK ZION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TEXAS PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 19, 2008**

The Texas Public Power Association (TPPA) provides this testimony in support of fully funding programs authorized by the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) of 2007. First, TPPA supports fully funding the State Energy Program (SEP), which provides money to state energy offices to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy programs that impact every sector of the economy. The SEP has been recently reauthorized through 2012 at a proposed funding level of \$125 million. While this would be a significant improvement over funding in recent years, it would actually return the program to a level of funding provided in the 1980s. SEP programs are needed now more than ever, and TPPA supports returning to an allocation of funds based on the existing formula rather than through competitive solicitation. In addition, TPPA supports funding the fully authorized amounts for the programs created or expanded through the EISA listed below.

Examples of programs that should be fully funded include the following:

- \$ 2 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants authorized by Sec. 541 of the EISA
- \$250 million for the Energy Sustainability and Efficiency Grants and Loans authorized by Sec. 471 of the EISA
- \$90 million for the competitive demonstration project grants for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles authorized by Sec. 131 of the EISA
- \$50 million for the Zero Net Energy Commercial Buildings Initiative authorized by Sec 422 of the EISA
- Funding for the Solar Energy Research and Advancement Act established in Subtitle A, Title, VI of the EISA, specifically,
 - \$7 million for the Thermal Energy Storage Research and Development Program established by Sec 602 of the EISA

- \$10 million for the Solar Energy Curriculum Development and Certification Grants for solar energy system installers, instructors, and training programs authorized by Sec 604 of the EISA
- \$30 million for Photovoltaic Demonstration Program authorized by Sec. 607 of the EISA
- Funding the Energy Storage for Transportation and Electric Power authorized by Sec 641 of the EISA, specifically,
 - \$ 50 million for basic research
 - \$80 million for applied research
 - \$30 million for stationary energy storage demonstrations
 - \$30 million for vehicle energy storage demonstrations
- \$100 million for the Smart Grid Regional Demonstration Initiative authorized by Sec 1304 of the EISA.

The state of Texas and TPPA member systems are leaders in the deployment of renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar. However, necessary advances can be realized only through public-private partnerships and the support of federal agencies such as the Department of Energy. Fully funding programs authorized by the EISA is vital to developing the means to achieve energy independence and to reduce harmful emissions from the nation's energy and transportation sectors.

TPPA represents 72 municipally owned electric utilities which provide highly reliable, low-cost power to nearly 3 million Texans (about 15% of the state's electric market), along with river authorities, joint action agencies, and others. TPPA appreciates this opportunity to provide testimony in support of funding programs related to energy efficiency, conservation, sustainability, renewable energy, electric transportation, and other clean energy initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

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