



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4308

July 16, 2024

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20585

Secretary Granholm,

We write to you expressing our concern regarding a decision made by the Department of Energy in 2023, discussed in a Daily Caller article published July 12, 2024, titled "Biden Administration Rejects Houston's Request for Grid Assistance After Hurricane Beryl."

As Members of Congress who represent portions of Southeast Texas, we are troubled by the reported denial of CenterPoint Energy's, a Houston-based utility company, application of roughly \$100 million from the Department of Energy's (DOE) \$10.5 billion Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program. According to reports, CenterPoint specifically requested the assistance "to fund high wind and flood mitigation projects." It should be noted that it was flooding and high winds from Hurricane Beryl that caused one of the largest – and ongoing – power outages in CenterPoint's history. Further, it seems this denial was issued despite our region being particularly susceptible to weather events that impact grid infrastructure.

The DOE's decision appears to have significant implications for Texas's recovery efforts and raises questions about the criteria and reasoning behind such determinations. It seems apparent to us that our region should have been a high priority applicant based on the consistent severe weather that impacts grid infrastructure.

Given the extent of the damage to power lines and the urgent need for support in Houston and surrounding areas, we request a detailed explanation of the factors that led to the denial of grid assistance. Specifically, we would appreciate clarification on the following questions:

1. What specific criteria were used to evaluate CenterPoint's request for GRIP Program funding versus those that were granted funding?
2. Was the frequency and severity of weather events in the regions that submitted for GRIP Program funding considered when awarding funding?

3. Were applicants granted the ability to remedy concerns or disqualifications prior to the decision to award GRIP Program funding?

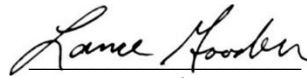
The well-being of our constituents and the resilience of our communities are of utmost importance, especially in times of crisis. Unfortunately, power restoration has been painstakingly slow, putting Texans at risk as temperatures continue to rise. We remain concerned that mitigation efforts may have been hastily or wrongly denied for our region. Therefore, it is crucial that we understand the rationale behind decisions that affect their recovery and future preparedness.

We urge a swift response regarding this urgent issue.

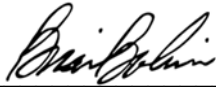
Sincerely,



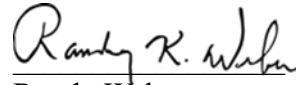
Morgan Luttrell
Member of Congress



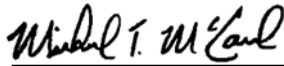
Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



Brian Babin
Member of Congress



Randy Weber
Member of Congress



Michael McCaul
Member of Congress



John R. Carter
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress