



May 22, 2017

Members
Texas House of Representatives
State Capitol
Austin, Texas 78701

We ask you to vote against Senate Bill 277.

This bill prohibits wind energy device owners from receiving a temporary property tax abatement through either Chapter 312 or Chapter 313 of the Tax Code, if the turbines are located 25 nautical miles or less from a military aviation facility.

This bill is motivated by concerns that wind towers could interfere with aviation; however, it addresses a problem that does not exist. The Department of Defense has a rigorous process in place that can prohibit development of any kind interfering with base activity. Further, the bill applies to all property, regardless of whether it is anywhere near a flight path.

Senate Bill 277 will cost Texas jobs and investment by denying renewable energy access to a valuable economic tool. Wind projects typically create construction, manufacturing, and service jobs not measured by the state's incentive programs. In addition to the lost future wages, Texas property owners will lose millions of dollars in potential royalties.

Texas' economic tools should not be used as a weapon against new investment. This bill creates a chilling precedent that could discourage Texas investment far beyond wind energy.

Please vote against Senate Bill 277 and for Texas growth.

Sincerely,

Tony Bennett, President, Texas Association of Manufacturers
Dale Craymer, President, Texas Taxpayers and Research Association
Hector Rivero, President, Texas Chemical Council
Carlton Schwab, President, Texas Economic Development Council
Todd Staples, President, Texas Oil and Gas Association
Jeff Moseley, CEO, Texas Association of Business