

Support Increase in Energy Efficiency Mandates Consistent With PUC Findings

CSSB 546 by Sen. Fraser

AECT Position: Support

Proposal

- CSSB 546 would increase Texas' energy efficiency goal to the lower of 30 percent of load growth or 0.3 percent of total peak demand of residential and commercial customers by Dec. 31, 2012, provided that the average rate impact of the programs is not more than 25¢/MWh.
- The goal would be raised to the lower of 50 percent of load growth or 0.7 percent of total peak demand of residential and commercial customers by Dec. 31, 2016, provided that the average rate impact of the programs is not more than 35¢/MWh.
- The goals cited in CSSB 546 are reflective of the findings of the energy efficiency study produced by Itron, under the supervision of the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) as directed by TX80RHB 3693.

AECT Position

- AECT supports CSSB 546 as an energy efficiency goal that is rational, measured and does not impose an unreasonable financial burden on customers or market participants.
- Because end-use customers pay for energy efficiency subsidies through retail electric prices, AECT supports provisions in CSSB 546 to limit the impact on customers' electric bills.
- AECT member companies support the implementation of energy efficiency technologies as they become economically viable and in demand by customers.
- AECT recognizes the importance of emerging energy efficiency technologies and believes the market will provide guidance in determining which technologies should be adopted.
- In the 2007 Legislative Session, the energy efficiency mandate was significantly expanded. Utility energy efficiency goals for 2009 are double what they were in 2007. CSSB 546 would be an appropriate next step for expansion of energy efficiency goals.