



## NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL REPRESENTATIVE JIM MURPHY

Dear Friends,

As much as we wish we could change the weather, it is out of our hands. This summer has been one of the hottest on record in Texas and trying to stay cool during this heat wave can prove to be detrimental to your pocketbook. So what can you do to help save money on you energy bill, while still be able to remain cool?

Here are a few household tips that can save you money on energy costs and won't cost you a dime to implement. Keeping the cool air from escaping your house and practicing basic maintenance this summer will help your air conditioner run efficiently and properly.

- Be sure that your fireplace damper is shut to avoid losing cool air, which is the cause of 14 percent of air leaks at home.
- Simply replacing you're A/C filters regularly can generate 5 to 10 percent energy savings, not to mention improving the quality of air you're breathing at home.
- It is also important to pay attention to your outdoor A/C unit and be sure that nothing is blocking its air flow, like bushes or shrubs. You can also use a garden hose to wash the coils of your unit.
- Cleaning out your lint trap before each dryer load can save the average household about \$34 per year.
- Finally, setting your thermostat just a few degrees warmer at night can make a big difference on your monthly bill during the summer months. The Department of Energy has found that you can save up to 10 by turning your thermostat back 10 to 15 percent for eight hours a day. There are several programmable thermostats available that make this an easy and automated task.

ERCOT , the entity that manages most of Texas' electric power, has stated that the peak times for usage are between 2p-7p. Let's all try to conserve energy during this time. Kathleen and I try to keep our dogs, Bear and Chief, indoors during the day. Please do the same for your pets in the hottest part of summer days. Please visit your electric service providers' website for further information on energy conservation tips.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim". The signature is stylized and cursive.

## Did you know?

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) manages the flow of electric power to 23 million Texas customers - representing 85 percent of the state's electric load and 75 percent of the Texas land area. As the independent system operator for the region, ERCOT schedules power on an electric grid that connects 40,500 miles of transmission lines and more than 550 generation units. ERCOT also manages financial settlement for the competitive wholesale bulk-power market and administers customer switching for 6.6 million Texans in competitive choice areas

Did you know you have the choice when it comes to your energy provider? The Public Utility Commission (PUC) has developed a helpful website to educate consumers on the utility market. I encourage you to visit <http://powertochoose.org/> to learn about the competitive electric market.

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