



Dear Friends,

If you are receiving this e-mail, you're either on our regular distribution list or you're one of the over 2,000 constituents and citizens who have reached out over the past two days with specific concerns and requests. I hope you'll each take the time to read this message.

First of all, elected officials, at all levels, need to be forthright and honest with our constituents. We must, right now at this moment - without delay and without reservation - level with the millions of Texans who have been impacted by this terrible and unprecedented weather emergency. Telling the truth is paramount ... even when it's bad news. (Especially when it's bad news!)

So I'm going to tell you the truth. What I know, what I don't know, what I want to know and what I believe you can expect over the next few days.

After multiple communications with ERCOT, ONCOR, CoServ and other providers over the past few days, it's very clear to me that, while this indeed is an unprecedented weather occurrence, the state should've been more prepared and the grid better safeguarded to preserve capacity for the people of Texas. At the very least, the communication with the people of Texas has been plainly unacceptable.

I have not been reluctant or reserved in my strong criticism of decision-makers, especially ERCOT, over the past few days. Balls were dropped. Mistakes were made. Bad decisions compounded bad decisions. You expect and demand better. And you deserve better.

I am glad that Governor Abbott has declared ERCOT reform an emergency item for this legislative session and that Speaker Phelan has tasked the House with taking this up immediately. As soon as we can get back to Austin - hopefully later this week - be assured that we will leave no stone unturned and no question unanswered. No decision-maker at ERCOT will be able to skate by without answering direct questions from us and those responsible for this mangled response will be held to account. I promise you I will be right there leading the charge and working hard to make your voice heard every step of the way.

This morning, I went on the Mark Davis Radio Show on 660am and had a lengthy discussion about some of these important efforts, including specific questions that need to be asked and answered. You can find a link to that interview here and I encourage you to take a listen:

<https://omny.fm/shows/the-mark-davis-show/february-16-2021-8am-hour>

Right now, we are laser-focused on doing everything we can to get power restored and to care for those who are in emergency situations throughout our community.

If you're reading this and you have not lost power, it's very likely you will not lose power - at least not for an extended period of time. If you continue to experience rolling blackouts, it's likely those rolling blackouts will continue for at least another 1-2 days and very possibly will last for more extended intervals of time. If you have power - permanently or temporarily - I urge you to do everything you can to conserve energy in your own home. Turn your thermostat to 68 instead of 72. Only charge and run devices that are absolutely critical. Wait to wash and dry that load of laundry for another day or so. Turn off lights and fans in rooms that aren't being used. Literally everything you can do to conserve energy - small or large - will help.

For those of you who have been without power for an extended period of time - or for those of you who know of folks in that situation - it is very likely you'll need to start thinking about alternative plans for the next 1-2 days. Especially if you are elderly or if you have infants or others who might have certain healthcare concerns and needs - or if you know of those folks - please contact a family member, friend, neighbor or area shelter that might be able to offer you a place to stay this evening. As always, if you have a health situation that is bordering on an emergency, please don't take any chances and call "911".

I hope I am wrong - and I'll be the first to admit that I very likely could be. Many devoted workers are on our streets right now at this very moment working to get power back on line. But my own due diligence leads me to believe that now is the time to start taking the necessary measures to plan ahead for the next 1-2 days, should power not be restored by this evening.

If you would like to avail yourself of one of the many warming stations in or around our area, here are a few that I know are open to serve you this evening:

PLANO

City of Plano in Conjunction with Grace Church Plano, 3301 Preston Road, Plano
Sent Church, 3701 W Spring Creek Parkway (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)
The Salvation Army, 3528 14th St. Call 214-637-8254. Open 24 hours.

RICHARDSON

Fire Station #3, 500 W. Lookout Dr. Open 24 hours.
First United Methodist Church, 503 N. Central Expressway, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Richardson Police Department headquarters lobby, 300 N. Greenville Ave. Open 24 hours.
Office Building, 500 Lockwood Dr., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
First Baptist Church Richardson, 1001 N Central Expressway. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

ALLEN/MCKINNEY

Roy and Helen Hall Library at 101 E. Hunt St. is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
McKinney Boyd High School at 600 Lake Forest Dr. is open 24 hours

As I indicated earlier, please continue to reach out if you are experiencing extended power outages. Be assured that every single one of them is being personally reviewed by me and then communicated to the relevant personnel and authorities for investigation and review.

And likewise, be assured that we're going to do everything possible to find the problems, address them and ensure that this never happens again in the Lone Star State. You deserve better.

Your Friend and Advocate,

Jeff Leach

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Leach". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Leach

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