



Dear Friends,

There's a lot to catch you up on this week so let's get straight to it...

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Clearly, the main focus of the Texas Legislature over the past several days, rightfully so, has been on the historic winter storms that impacted every citizen and every corner of our state last week. Our anger has turned into action and we are committed to working aggressively to find solutions to ensure this never happens again in the State of Texas.

My week has been consumed with meetings and communications with countless constituents, community leaders, industry experts and fellow legislators and agency heads here in Austin. I've been asking tough questions and demanding answers on your behalf.

Just yesterday, the Texas House commenced formal investigative hearings at the Texas Capitol, allowing legislators the opportunity, with Texans looking on, to get answers from ERCOT, from the PUC, from the Railroad Commission, from our electric providers and from others who are responsible for decision-making and oversight of the state's electric grid. After a marathon hearing lasting more than 15 hours, it became abundantly clear to me that what I have believed and have been arguing all along is indeed true: While this was an unprecedented winter weather event, the fallout, the results, the loss of power, of heat, of water, and the unfortunate loss of life, all could have and should have been avoided.

This week, I am glad to report that several of the Board Members of ERCOT, including the Board Chair and Vice Chair, both of whom resided outside of the State of Texas, submitted their resignations. Further, last night I called on the ERCOT CEO and the PUC Commissioners to swiftly submit their resignations as well. I firmly believe that new leadership in these integral positions is key to ensuring the people of Texas, and your legislators, have the confidence needed as we move forward in to the future.

While these personnel decisions are important and necessary, make no mistake that additional reforms will be needed to ensure this never happens again in the Lone Star State. We can and should remain on our own electric grid here in Texas. I firmly believe that. But there's no question we need to make wholesale, top-to-bottom, substantive

changes, both in terms of how we operate, how we prepare for weather events, how we store reserve energy capacity, how we prepare and weatherize our key components and generating capabilities, and how we communicate during times of emergency to the people of Texas.

All of these things are on the agenda and all solutions are on the table. And I and my team are working around the clock to make sure that we deliver answers and results on your behalf. You demand and deserve nothing less.

WINTER STORM RESOURCES

Last week's winter storm is reported to be the costliest natural disaster in the history of State of Texas. As we begin not only assessing what went wrong and how to make sure it never happens again, we are also dealing with the real, pressing issue of what to do right now to meet people at the point of their need and help our community and our citizens recover and rebuild their lives and livelihoods. To that end, my team and I have been working to gather important information that we hope will help you in your next steps. Here are a few:

Emergency Assistance:

- FEMA Disaster Assistance: <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>
- 2-1-1 Texas: Dial 211 or <https://www.211texas.org/>

Food:

- Allen Community Outreach: <https://www.acocares.org/need-help/#food>
- First Baptist Church Allen: <https://www.fbcallen.org/financial-food-medical-help/>
- Minnie's Food Pantry: <https://minniesfoodpantry.org/boots-on-the-ground/>
- North Texas Food Bank: <https://ntfb.org/our-programs/get-food-assistance/>
- SNAP Benefits: <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/food/snap-food-benefits>

Housing Assistance:

- Free Showers for Plano Residents without water: <https://www.plano.gov/>
- Salvation Army North Texas: www.salvationarmyntx.org
- American Red Cross North Texas: <https://www.redcross.org/local/texas/north-texas.html>

Insurance Information:

- Texas Department of Insurance: Call the helpline at 800-252-3439 or visit <https://www.tdi.texas.gov/news/2021/tdi02182021.html>
- Insurance FAQs: <https://www.tdi.texas.gov/consumer/storms/winter-storm-faq.html>

- Report Price Gouging and Scams: <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection/disaster-and-emergency-scams/how-spot-and-report-price-gouging>

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT!

Bella Italian Ristorante in Plano

The generosity of Texans never ceases to amaze me. By way of example, while many were without power last week, Bella Italian Ristorante in Plano offered a hot meal to those in need. With only a gas oven and a gas stove (as the restaurant was without power as well), owner Ari Isufaj fed over 500 people spaghetti and lasagna. As if that weren't enough, Ari also provided 80 meals to a nearby warming station at Sent Church. Mr. Isufaj embodies what we all know about Texans - when people are in crisis, our friends and neighbors are the first people to jump in and help.

Dylan Rafaty

We are proud of our friend and advocate, Dylan Rafaty, for being awarded the 2020 Oticon Focus on People Award for Advocacy. Dylan is dedicated to working collaboratively to find solutions impacting our every day lives. Always lending a kind word, encouraging others, and making Texas better! Proud of you, Dylan!



Speaking to Allen High School Students!

I enjoyed the opportunity to connect virtually with hundreds of Allen High School students on Monday. We talked about civic engagement and their unique role in leading Texas forward! Grateful for technology that allows me to connect with constituents back home even when I'm away at the Capitol.



God Bless you, friends. And God Bless Texas! As always, call or e-mail me if I can serve you in any way.

All My Best,

Jeff Leach

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