

**TESTIMONY TO THE TEXAS SENATE**  
**SUPPORTING**  
**SENATE BILL 76**  
**AN ACT RELATING TO THE SECURITY OF THE ELECTRIC GRID**  
**(April 10, 2019)**

As the Executive Director of the EMP Task Force on National and Homeland Security, the former Chief of Staff of the Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States from Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Attack established by the U.S. Congress, and the former senior analyst for EMP threats and nuclear strategy at the Central Intelligence Agency—I urge the Texas Senate to support Senator Bob Hall’s Bill 76 “An Act Relating To The Security Of The Electric Grid”.

On March 26, 2019, President Donald Trump signed his “Executive Order on Coordinating Resilience to Electromagnetic Pulses” warning that natural EMP from solar superstorms and nuclear EMP attack poses potentially existential threats to the United States and the world.

The President’s EMP executive order recognizes that a “whole of government solution” is necessary and that: “The Federal Government must foster sustainable, efficient, and cost-effective approaches to improving the Nation’s resilience to the effects of EMPs.”

Texas must do its part to help our President, the Department of Homeland Security, and other relevant departments and agencies of the U.S. Government understand what solutions are most “sustainable, efficient, and cost-effective” for protecting the State of Texas electric grid from EMP and other threats.

President Trump’s EMP executive order recognizes that EMP and Cyber Warfare are related problems, and that common solutions may be found for protecting electric grids and other life-sustaining critical infrastructures from both these and other threats.

Senator Bob Hall’s Bill 76 has the great virtue, almost unique in legislative history relating to grid security, of combining the full spectrum of possible threats in one bill: EMP, cyber, physical, weather, solar storms, and sabotage. Legislation often makes the mistake of “stove-piping” these threats, treating them individually, when in fact there are common solutions that are most cost-effective.

Indeed, the Congressional EMP Commission warns that the military doctrines and plans of potential adversaries are a combined-arms threat, utilizing EMP, cyber-attacks, and sabotage simultaneously.

Thus, plans to defend electric grids and other critical infrastructures should anticipate combined threats, as does Senator Bob Hall’s SB 76. Appended to my testimony find the Congressional EMP Commission Report “Nuclear EMP Attack Scenarios and Combined-Arms Cyber Warfare”

which describes the combined-arms threat from Russia, China, North Korea and Iran, often in their own words quoting from their military doctrines—their threats in effect constitute a sobering and alarming endorsement of Senator Bob Hall’s Senate Bill 76.

In addition to protecting the people of Texas, Senator Hall’s SB 76 can lay the foundations for economic growth and prosperity. Energy security is now a major consideration for the Department of Defense and all U.S. Government departments and agencies when deciding where to locate bases and facilities, as it is for major domestic and international corporations.

EMP and cyber protection are the defense industries of the future. Senate Bill 76 represents an opportunity to lay the foundations for these new defense industries in Texas, which will be much in demand among all the states and internationally.

The U.S. Space Force will be part of the defensive architecture against EMP attack. If the Texas electric grid is EMP and cyber protected, this will give Texas a competitive advantage over other states that also have space industries and can play major roles in supporting the new U.S. Space Force.

Finally, if the Texas Senate fails to pass SB 76, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will eventually protect the Texas grid by fiat or through the regulatory process, without help and uninformed by Texas experts—which is not optimal for protecting the Texas grid or the lives of its citizens, betraying their most vital interests.

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