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To the members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development.  
*Via hand delivery.* March 25, 2021

**Re: SB 1261 by Rep. Birdwell - Opposition testimony of Public Citizen**

Dear Chairman Birdwell and members of the committee:

Public Citizen appreciates the opportunity to testify against SB 1261 by Chairman Birdwell, relating to the exclusive jurisdiction of the state to regulate greenhouse gas emissions in this state and the express preemption of local regulation of those emissions.

We want to thank Chairman Birdwell and the members of this committee for considering Texas' potential as a regulator of greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change is an existential threat to Texas and its people and we must act swiftly and decisively to address it now. However, we doubt that preempting municipalities from regulating greenhouse gases will be an effective strategy to combat climate change.

In fact, given that climate action plans are already in effect in the cities of Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio, restricting cities from regulating greenhouse gases would be a step backward in the fight against climate change.

Instead, we propose that Texas consider some of the following actions:

- Develop a statewide emissions inventory of greenhouse gases.
- Set GHG emissions reductions targets for each industry represented in the inventory.
- Develop a revenue neutral carbon fee and dividend program.
- Provide incentives and affordable financing for:
  - o renewable energy;
  - o energy efficiency;
  - o energy storage;
  - o electrification of transportation, buildings and industry;
  - o sustainable alternatives to plastic.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony and welcome questions at [ashelley@citizen.org](mailto:ashelley@citizen.org), 512-477-1155.

Respectfully,

Adrian Shelley  
Public Citizen's Texas Office Director

CC: Sen. Judith Zaffirini, Sen. Carol Alvarado, Sen. Kelly Hancock, Sen. Juan Hinojosa, Sen. Bryan Hughes, Sen. Lois W. Kolkhorst, Sen. Eddie Lucio, Jr., Sen. Kel Seliger.