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The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

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SENATOR CÉSAR J. BLANCO VOTES TO PROTECT CONSUMERS FROM ELECTRICITY OVERCHARGES

Austin, Texas - Today, the Texas Senate approved Senate Bill 2142 that authorizes the Public Utility Commission (PUC) to correct pricing errors made by ERCOT that resulted in \$16 billion in electricity overcharges during Winter Storm Uri last month. Senator César J. Blanco (El Paso) voted in favor of the legislation.

During Winter Storm Uri, the Public Utility Council (PUC) allowed the Electrical Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) to set energy prices at \$9,000 per megawatt hour - the maximum amount allowable - to incentive energy production. The Independent Market Monitor found that ERCOT kept the higher scarcity prices in place for 32 hours longer than it needed to causing errors in pricing and overcharges to consumers.

"ERCOT made a mistake. The Public Utility Commission, who oversees ERCOT, failed to correct the mistake. Senator Blanco said. "Today, the Texas Senate took urgent action to ensure the Public Utility Commission has the authority to fix the errors in electricity overcharges. I was proud to support this bill to protect our rate-payers."