

**TSPA testimony to Senate Committee on Business & Commerce**  
SB 760 by Springer - Relating to the removal of solar power facilities  
March 16, 2021

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members. My name is Charlie Hemmeline, executive director of the Texas Solar Power Association.

TSPA membership serves customers in both wholesale and retail markets, and includes large-scale power plant developers, manufacturers, residential and commercial rooftop integrators, and others across the full supply chain. Collectively, our industry employs over 14,000 Texans.

The cost of electricity from solar has fallen 90% in the last 10 years and it has become an attractive choice for a wide range of Texas customers. Mainstream corporations, oil & gas leaders, and other market participants have all signed deals in recent years for Texas-based solar generation and the solar industry is scaling up to deliver on that demand.

Customers get clean low-cost electricity, communities gain valuable local tax revenue, and the grid gets further portfolio diversification to help boost resource adequacy.

We also of course want to make sure that the land itself is well cared for, and we appreciate the legislature's interest in making sure that Texas landowners aren't burdened with abandoned energy infrastructure.

Although we are still decades away from any Texas solar project reaching the end of its useful life, it is standard practice in the industry to make provisions for that time in lease arrangements with landowners. Those contracts address the topics included in SB 760, such as the removal of facilities and restoration of land, with appropriate financial assurances.

We're still gathering feedback from our member companies on the specific provisions in the bill and look forward to working with you on any recommendations we may have.

Solar power is here for the long haul and we're committed to being good stewards of Texas land and good partners with Texas landowners.

We thank you Senator Springer for engaging with us on this and I'm happy to answer any questions.