

Electric Utility Commission
August 16, 2010
Resolution Calling for Appointment of a Public Budget Ombudsman

WHEREAS, public oversight over the development and implementation of Austin Energy's budget is of vital importance;

WHEREAS, Austin Energy is a complex institution with over \$1 Billion in annual revenues;

WHEREAS, the Electric Utility Commission is comprised of volunteers who meet monthly with no direct access to the books and records of Austin Energy;

WHEREAS, it is not realistic to expect that a volunteer board that meets monthly exercise effective oversight over the preparation of the annual budget of Austin Energy on behalf of the citizens of Austin and the rate payers of Austin Energy;

Resolved, that by December 2010 a public "Budget Oversight Ombudsman" be appointed to report to the Electric Utility Commission and to be available to answer questions of customers and stakeholders that are approved by the Electric Utility Commission;

Further Resolved, that the Budget Oversight Ombudsman have experience in auditing and reviewing budgets of electric utilities in Texas and be allowed to meet with staff of Austin Energy and review the records of Austin Energy as necessary or appropriate to perform its functions; and

Further Resolved, that the Budget Oversight Ombudsman make a presentation to the Electric Utility Commission at each of the budget presentations made by staff during the preparation of the 2011 – 2012 Budget.