



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Resource Management Commission

Recommendation No. 20231017-006

Resolution on State Oversight of Energy Conservation Programs of Texas Gas Services

WHEREAS, the current City of Austin franchise agreement with Texas Gas Service gives the Resource Management Commission purview to advise City Council on matters related to Texas Gas Service energy conservation programs; and

WHEREAS, regulation of these programs has been the ultimate responsibility of Austin City Council since 1985, and

WHEREAS, the passage of House Bill 2263 in the 2023 session of the Texas Legislature suggests removal of Austin control of these programs, replacing City regulatory authority with the Railroad Commission of Texas; and

WHEREAS, this removal may make the Texas Gas Service programs less cost effective and less accountable to local needs;

THEN BE IT RESOLVED, that the Resource Management Commission advise the Austin City Council to seek a waiver from the Railroad Commission of Texas allowing Austin to maintain local regulatory control of these programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Resource Management Commission advise Council that if this waiver is not granted, then the City take a position in future rate cases before the Railroad Commission of Texas that the rebates for specific appliances and other energy conservation measures be disallowed by the Commission if they are not cost effective. Low-income programs would be exempted from cost-effectiveness requirements.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Resource Management Commission advise Council that after 2024, and well as in coming negotiations for renewal of the Texas Gas Service franchise, a formal arrangement should be established where the City of Austin would approve and administer gas conservation programs currently operated by the company.

Vote: 7-2

For: Commissioner Paul Robbins, Vice Chair; Commissioner Melissa Carugati; Commissioner Charlotte Davis; Commissioner Trey Farmer; Commissioner Shane Johnson; Commissioner Chelsey Scaffidi; Commissioner Alison Silverstein

Against: Commissioner Kate Bren; Commissioner GeNell Gary

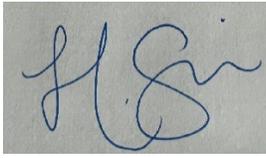
Abstentions: None

Off Dais: None

Absences: Commissioner Louis Stone, Chair

Vacancies: Mayor

Attest:

A square image containing a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'N. Goodwin'.

Natasha Goodwin, Staff Liaison