

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS, OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 1535 AND SENATE BILL 841 AND ANY OTHER LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR AUTOMATIC INCREASES TO EL PASO RATEPAYERS AND DIMINISH THE CITY OF EL PASO'S ORIGINAL JURISDICTION OVER RATE MAKING

WHEREAS, El Paso Electric Company is a regulated monopoly and the citizens and businesses of El Paso have no other options for electric service;

WHEREAS, El Paso Electric Company will file in July or August 2015 for a significant rate increase;

WHEREAS, El Paso Electric Company is expected to file cases in future years as it builds more generation,

WHEREAS, as currently drafted House Bill 1535 and Senate Bill 841 would allow for rate increases to El Paso residents and businesses substantially sooner than the law has permitted for 40 years, with little or no opportunity for a regulatory body to review the basis for the increase;

WHEREAS, House Bill 1535 and Senate Bill 841, by imposing rate increases sooner with limited regulator review, will allow for increase in income and substantial benefit to El Paso Electric with no benefit to ratepayers.;

WHEREAS, House Bill 1535 and Senate Bill 841 would interfere with the City of El Paso's original jurisdiction over the rates of utilities within the city by making it easier to bypass full rate case reviews;

WHEREAS, the City of El Paso's participation in El Paso Electric Company's last rate increase request resulted in the savings of millions of dollars for El Paso residents and businesses;

WHEREAS, El Paso Electric's last two rate cases did not come at a cost to the taxpayer, and the cost of a case with the ability of evaluation of the claim is far less expensive than the additional cost to taxpayers of an automatic increase.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF EL PASO:

1. Strongly opposes House Bill 1535 and Senate Bill 841 and any other legislation that would automatically increase electric rates for El Paso residents and business and erode the City of El Paso's original jurisdiction over rate making during any regular or special session of the 84th Session of the Texas Legislature; and

2. Requests that the El Paso legislative delegation work to protect the residents and businesses of the City of El Paso from higher electric rates by ensuring that House Bill 1535 and Senate Bill 841 do not include El Paso Electric Company and take actions to protect the original jurisdiction of the City of El Paso in ratemaking.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City of El Paso this _____ day of March, 2015.


CITY OF EL PASO:

Oscar Leaser
Mayor

ATTEST:

Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Sylvia Borunda Firth
City Attorney