



## Important Information: Help Protect your Affordable Co-op Power

As your electric cooperative, our priority has always been to deliver safe, affordable and reliable power. But today, we are facing a serious threat that could jeopardize our ability to serve our community.

Victoria Electric Cooperative is joining other Texas electric cooperatives to voice our opposition to proposed legislation that threatens to disrupt fair agreements between cooperatives and telecom companies, making energy more expensive for hard-working Texans. Additionally, some of these bills would let telecom companies bypass safety standards and access private member property without Victoria Electric Cooperative or private landowners' permission.

Right now, electric cooperatives have a fair agreement with telecom companies to share utility poles. This partnership allows telecom companies to expand services into rural areas, while cooperatives continue to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity. Victoria EC fully supports broadband and telecom companies in their work to expand services to rural areas, recognizing the significant investment required to serve rural communities. However, we do not believe our members should be subsidizing any of those companies, through our electricity bills.

Unfortunately, HB 3448 and SB 1251, are making their way through the Texas Legislature. This legislation would:

**\*Raise Your Electric Bills:** This bill forces co-ops to allow for-profit telecom companies to use our poles at rates so low they don't cover costs, shifting the financial burden onto our members.

**\*Jeopardize Safety and Reliability:** It lets telecom companies bypass co-op safety standards and hijack private property without the owner's permission—putting reliable electric service at risk.

**\*Halting Rural Development:** This bill causes endless litigation on every rate, cost, fee, or reliability requirement that co-ops need to keep their systems safe. These contested cases could take years, stopping rural development in its tracks.

Rural Texans deserve affordable, reliable power. But HB 3448 and SB 1251 puts that at risk. **We need your help to stop this reckless pole attachment bill.** Speak out today and tell your representatives to stand with their communities and oppose HB 3448 and SB 1251 by visiting <https://voicesforcooperativepower.com/stop-the-attack-on-affordable-power-for-rural-texans/>. Your voice matters, and together we can protect the affordable, reliable energy that keeps our communities strong.

Join us in making your voice heard. Thank you for standing with us and supporting your co-op.