

Definitive Solar Library

“Around The Corner” Webinars:

What Happened for Solar – or not! – During the 2011 Texas Legislative Session



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Russel Smith is the co-founder and executive director of Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association (TREIA). His career spans more than three decades working with governmental, educational and non-profit boards, and on state committees promoting the development of solar wind, biomass, geothermal and hydro resources. Smith is also a founding member and former executive director of the educational non-profit Texas Solar Energy Society.

TREIA's 13 Legislative Objectives

- ★ Encourage filing and passage of bills addressing 12 objectives
- ★ Bills filed relating to 8 of the 12
- ★ Bills passed relating to 6 of the 8 objectives
- ★ 13th objective - Maintain existing tax exemptions - accomplished

TREIA's task during session

- ★ 113 bills on TREIA's action list
- ★ TREIA supported sixty (60) – fifteen (15) passed, and
- ★ opposed nine (9) – all nine were defeated

Key bills that failed to pass

- ★ **HB 2961 (Darby)** – state-wide solar incentives tiered for residential, commercial, and utility-scale projects
- ★ **HB 774 (Anchia) / SB 330 (Watson)** – 1,500 MW goal (RPS) for non-wind renewable energy resources by 2020
- ★ **HB 3259 (Strama)** – change 500 MW non-wind “target” in current RPS to “goal” affirming it as mandatory

Direct impact on solar market



- ★ **HB 362 (Solomons)** – Solar and HOAs
- ★ **SB 981 (Carona)** – Distributed Renewable Generation Third Party Ownership
- ★ **SB 1910 (Rodriguez)** – Net Metering and Efficiency Programs for El Paso Electric
- ★ **HB 2077 (E. Rodriguez)** – State Efficiency and Renewable Energy Finance Program for Non-profits and Houses of Worship

Peripheral, but could have an impact

- ★ **HB 51 (Lucio III)** – Efficiency & High Performance Standards for State Buildings
- ★ **HB1728 (Keffer)** – Public Institutions Increased Funding Flexibility for Performance Contracting
- ★ **SB 898 (Carona)** – Public Institutions Energy Use Reduction Goals Set
- ★ **SB 943 (Carona)** – Electric Energy Storage Regulation
- ★ **SB 312 (Seliger)** – Natural Gas & Renewables

Harmful bills defeated

- ★ SB 1590, HB 2652, HB 3015
- ★ Altered Chapter 313 of the Tax Code to the detriment of renewable energy project development.

Other anti-renewables efforts defeated

- ★ Ending RPS (Goal for Renewable Energy)
- ★ Stopping Competitive Renewable Energy Zones transmission program
- ★ Opening definition of renewable energy technology to include non-renewable resources

Important issues defeated but kicked to interim

- ★ **Chapter 313 - Select Committee on Economic Development**
- ★ **State Energy Plan**

Questions and Discussion

Please enter your questions into the Chat window



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