

## Koy Kunkel\_SC

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**From:** applications.administrator@capitol.local  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 5:07 PM  
**To:** Senate Redistricting  
**Subject:** INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

Date: 2021-02-24  
First Name: Heather  
Last Name: McLeod  
Title: N/A  
Organization: self  
Address: [REDACTED]  
City: Austin  
State: Texas  
Zipcode: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]

Affirm public info: I agree

Regarding: Senate

Message:

Dear Texas lawmakers, I'm writing about the needless suffering, stress, destruction, and death that occurred here last week during the energy blackouts amid the catastrophic week-long winter storm. My family lost a week's income and my kids lost seven days of school. During that time we struggled to stay warm in our house without power, struggled to feed ourselves, and worried constantly about our pipes bursting. Part of our family evacuated to a hotel with a vulnerable pet, where we were forced to spend vacation money but couldn't find enough food. Let me tell you, it was no vacation. Yet we were some of the lucky ones. Once our power and water were restored, we volunteered to take water to seniors in need and perform well checks on them. One of the houses we visited this past Sunday belongs to a couple who are 90 and 76 years old and survived four days of no power last week in freezing temperatures. Cut off from the world, no cell phones, only a dead landline. Frail. Risking their lives to gather snow so they could flush their toilets.

Can you imagine them in that cold? It pains me to think about. They could have easily died. Many people did die. This kind of disaster must never happen again, and should never have happened in the first place. You received a report in 2011 from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission outlining the need to winterize equipment, and yet no winterizing happened. This feels so personal. I can only conclude that the Texas government cares more about money than the safety of its citizens. Please make this right. Please prove me wrong. I'm asking you all to investigate what happened and to ensure that ERCOT and every energy provider is regulated the way they used to be. Privatization is not the way to go here. Clearly. We tried it, and it failed. I could go on and on about all the medically fragile people who suffered through this, all the scared and hungry children...what a nightmare. Please make energy protection your number one priority going forward, along with fighting climate change. Thank you.