

**Committee on Energy and Commerce**  
**Opening Statement as Prepared for Delivery**  
**of**  
**Representative Marc Veasey**

***Hearing on “Power Struggle: Examining the 2021 Texas Grid Failure”***

**March 24, 2021**

Last month, 57 Texans lost their lives and millions across the state were left without power.

We were just seconds, yes-SECONDS away from our entire state’s power grid from completely imploding. This could have left me and my fellow Texans in the dark and cold for months.

Madame Chair, I want to thank you for holding today’s hearing about last month’s catastrophic winter storm in Texas, because a massive failure cannot happen again.

Last month, families across Texas were huddled under blankets in freezing houses, hospitals struggled to keep their lights on to help patients, Texans had limited access to water, and shelves were barren in grocery stores.

The scenes were apocalyptic and happened because Republicans turned their back for years on the fact that Texas’ power grid was not prepared to handle these cold temperatures. Their lack of oversight, planning and a lack of taking a multifaceted approach in diversifying our energy sector led to this crisis.

Today’s hearing is critical because it will examine why this happened and call on leaders across our state to come up with commonsense solutions so this does not happen again.