

STATEMENT OF O. W. SOMMERS, GENERAL MANAGER, CITY PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD, SAN ANTONIO, TEX.

Mr. SOMMERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the interest of time my statement is very brief and I will just read it to you.

The City Public Service Board of San Antonio, Tex., would like to be recorded as supporting H.R. 5348 and is filing a copy of this letter with the clerk of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Power.

The city public service board operates and manages the city-owned electric and gas systems through a board of trustees of five members established in accordance with the statutes of the States of Texas. The electric and gas systems were purchased in 1942, and the electric system is the largest municipal system in Texas and about the fourth largest in the Nation.

The electric system of the city public service board serves at retail rates approximately the area of Bexar County consisting of about 1,200 square miles and 217,600 customers.

The electric power and energy is supplied by four steam electric plants with a combined capacity of about 1,053,000 kilowatts. The plants and other elements of the system are connected by the usual network of 69,000- and 138,000-volt transmission lines.

In addition to serving customers in Bexar County at retail rates, the city public service board has wholesale contracts with several municipal systems outside Bexar County. It also has an emergency standby contract with one REA.

The electric system is interconnected with the other members of the Texas interconnected system. The connection with this interconnected system is through the Central Power & Light Co., an investor-owned utility, to the south and the Lower Colorado River Authority, a State agency, to the north.

The Texas interconnected system has been in operation for many years and has proven very satisfactory. The combination of investor-owned, State, municipal and REA cooperatives' systems has worked in complete harmony to the advantage of all customers in the area. By providing backup capacity in case of emergencies, greater reliability of service and a reduction in spinning reserve is obtained to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

Due to the foregoing, it is the opinion of the city public service board that any additional regulation of the system is unnecessary and may, in fact, result in hampering an operation that is now highly satisfactory.

The Board of Trustees of the City Public Service Board of San Antonio would like to urge your favorable consideration of House bill 5348.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. MACDONALD. Thank you very much, sir. You say that your operation is highly satisfactory and I am sure it is.

Mr. SOMMERS. That is right.

Mr. MACDONALD. I was wondering who regulates your rates at the present time?

Mr. SOMMERS. The cities regulate the rates of municipal utilities.

Mr. MACDONALD. Who in the city? The mayor?

Mr. SOMMERS. Well, it is the city council or whoever—