

March 10, 2003

Dear Candidate,

Last week brought the highest natural gas prices of all time. In addition, Austin is on the verge of becoming a non-attainment city due to its high ozone levels. We need a cleaner, more stable energy mix for Austin's future. A growing group of consumer, environmental and business people has been building support for making Austin a leader in clean energy. We need your backing.

The benefits of renewable energy are significant and long-term:

- Less dependence on foreign fuel;
- Local energy generation from a secure source;
- Reduction of emissions of harmful matter into our air;
- Development of new low- and high-tech industries in Austin based on clean energy;
- Maintaining a high quality of life that makes Austin so special.

In 1983, Austin voters authorized a \$39 million bond issue for renewable energy resource capital improvements. Most of the money was never spent, leaving \$28 million in voter approved funds that the city could use to jump-start its solar future. In 1996, the City Council resolved to strive toward a goal of getting 20% of its electricity from renewables by 2010 and 40% by 2020. We are not on track to meet that goal.

As a candidate for mayor in Austin's upcoming elections, you can get us back on track. Austin Energy is a municipally-owned utility with oversight by city council and ultimately responsible to the citizens of Austin. We would like to talk with you about Austin's energy today and the possibilities for renewable and solar energy the costs, the benefits and the way forward.

Regards,

Tom "Smitty" Smith  
Public Citizen

Peter Altman  
SEED Coalition

Suzanna Almanza  
People in Defense of the Earth and her Resources

Kathryn Houser  
Texas Solar Energy Society