

TEXAS EAGLE FORUM

March 2021

Dear Eagles,

I hope you and your family stayed warm and safe during Texas' epic winter storm last month. So many Texans were without heat and water and suffered the tragic consequences of years of legislative inaction on "hardening" our grid.

Texas Eagle Forum has been concerned about our electric grid for several years. We were co-sponsors of Senator Bob Hall's "Texas Electric Grid Summits" in 2016 and 2019, which informed legislators and citizens how vulnerable our grid is to cyber hacking, as well as to brutally hot and extremely cold weather. Senator Hall has an article in this month's *Torch* entitled, "Texas Electric Grid Resilience is Priority: Fix the Problem." Lawmakers must "fix" our grid this session. No more empty talk, no more excuses. Get it done!

Also in this issue, Trayce Bradford, Eagle Forum Human Trafficking Chair and former TEF President, looks at the evils of human trafficking, especially sex trafficking of children and young teens. Tragically, Texas joins California and Florida in having the most sex trafficking in the Nation. Our goal is to bring awareness and ways to recognize and prevent what is happening under the radar in our communities.

Too many of our elected officials call themselves conservative but are afraid to stand for truth and for our Constitution. They fold in the face of pressure from a more powerful elected official or even a paid lobbyist. They seek the praise of man instead of doing what they know is right. They are in the battle but play it safe.

Eagles aren't afraid of the truth, and we seek to expose it and teach it. Some time ago, I found a poem written by Scottish poet Charles Mackay (1814–1889) entitled, "You Have No Enemies." This poem reinvigorates my courage and keeps me focused when under attack, and I am excited to share it with you.

*YOU have no enemies, you say?
Alas! my friend, the boast is poor;
He who has mingled in the fray
Of duty, that the brave endure,
Must have made foes! If you have none,
Small is the work that you have done.
You've hit no traitor on the hip,
You've dashed no cup from perjured lip,
You've never turned the wrong to right,
You've been a coward in the fight.*

(over, please)

Politics is not for the fainthearted. Margaret Thatcher is said to have kept a copy of Mackay's poem in her scrapbook and often looked at it for solace and inspiration. During her time as England's prime minister, Mrs. Thatcher faced constant disapproval by the press and the opposing party for her conservative politics and policies. She wasn't called "The Iron Lady" because she wanted to be popular. She did what she thought was right for her country and stood firm on her principles. Her famous quote, "This is not the time to go wobbly," encourages me, and I hope you, to take a stand and not back down during this era of conservative suppression.

As the 87th Texas Legislative Session finally gets down to business, how many legislators will fight for our conservative issues and not be "cowards in the fight?" How many are willing to co-sponsor a bill banning minor children from having dangerous and body-altering medical procedures to "change" their gender? How many will back a bill to end abortion in Texas or even support a heartbeat bill? How many will be influenced by powerful lobbyists to vote for Las Vegas-type gambling casinos in Texas, or vote to legalize marijuana, despite studies showing legalization opens the door to hard drugs, increased homelessness, and more crime in our streets? How many will give their approval to HB 3, the terrible bill authored by a Texas Republican, giving the Governor, the Federal Government, and even the CDC more power during a pandemic?

Please pray for legislators to stand strong on our grassroots issues, despite inevitable censure by their peers and the media. We pray God will give them discernment, wisdom, and courage as they look at the bills, listen to their constituents, and cast votes.

Make sure you are receiving our Monday Action Alerts email during the session. We share insight into important bills we are tracking and give action points on how your voice can make a difference. If you are not receiving them, sign up on our website www.texaseagleforum.com.

The month of March ushers in spring, with its budding trees, bluebonnets, and warm sunshine. Texas is so beautiful in spring—barren winter leading to a renewal of life! I am reminded of a spiritual comparison as we celebrate Easter on April 4—the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. When we accept His free gift of salvation, we receive eternal life!

I am so grateful for you standing with TEF as we continue to fight for conservative principles in Texas and our beloved Nation. Together, we can keep Texas free for our children, grandchildren, and future generations!

Easter blessings to you and your family!

Faithfully,



Cindi Castilla
President of Texas Eagle Forum