



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF TEXAS**

**TESTIMONY  
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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY RESOURCES RE: HB 1124**

The League of Women Voters of Texas (LWV-TX) thanks you for this opportunity to share our support for HB 1124.

HB 1124 improves pipeline safety in urban areas by filling dangerous gaps in state pipeline safety rules.

This bill requires that natural gas gathering and transmission lines in heavily populated areas (designated Class 3 and 4 locations under federal rules) in the Barnett Shale region meet the following specifications:

- Be constructed at least 50 feet from structures frequented by people unless the owner consents or the pipeline is operated/equipped with certain enhanced safety features;
- Use advanced leak detection technology (called SCADA);
- Be constructed with materials that meet federal requirements. This provision would prohibit operators from using low-grade or experimental, composite materials that compromise public safety;
- Comply with federal corrosion protection measures, and that gathering lines be subject to state "integrity management" rules from which they are currently exempt.

These provisions are vital in an urban area, such as the Barnett Shale, where thousands of gas gathering pipelines will be required to service gas wells.

This bill will improve safety of gas lines in urban areas and therefore LWV-TX supports HB 1124.