

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** This is a special agenda.
3 It's one of the ones that we only do every two years.
4 It's the time that we decide to vote for a new chairman.
5 And so I think that before we get into the dockets that
6 we should start there and decide who's going to be doing
7 this for the next two years. And so I guess I'm ready
8 for a motion. Commissioner Brisé.

9 **COMMISSIONER BRISÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 Fellow Commissioners, every two years we have
11 the awesome privilege and responsibility to elect one of
12 our peers to serve as chairperson of this institution,
13 the Public Service Commission, that since its inception
14 in 1887 has had the duty to ensure that the residents of
15 the great State of Florida receive services that they
16 pay for and that we regulate here at the Commission in a
17 safe, reliable manner at rates that are reasonable.
18 That sounds pretty easy, but it's actually a pretty tall
19 order. And on top of that, to have five individuals who
20 come from completely different backgrounds and to have
21 those individuals arrive at some sort of consensus that
22 not only makes sense for the individual ratepayer, but
23 it makes sense for the overall state.

24 So let me say over the last five years that
25 I've been here we have done that successfully. And so,

1 therefore, it is my great honor today and privilege to
2 nominate a colleague who is intellectually brilliant,
3 thoughtful, compassionate, personable, who carries out
4 her duties with high energy, keen attention to detail,
5 and integrity. You may begin to figure out who we're
6 talking about; right? She is an attorney. All right?
7 She is an active member of NARUC. Which one? I don't
8 know. Right? (Laughter.) An active member of NARUC,
9 active member of SEARUC -- I'm not making that
10 comment -- and she is an active member of the Tampa Bay
11 community. Most importantly, she is a wonderful wife to
12 Hank and mother to Tripp and Emerson. I guess that
13 leaves you out, right, Lisa?

14 So with that, I want to nominate my friend and
15 colleague and move that we elect Commissioner Julie I.
16 Brown for chairman of the Public Service Commission. Go
17 Team Florida.

18 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Okay. That was the
19 nomination. Do we have a second? Commissioner Edgar.

20 **COMMISSIONER EDGAR:** Thank you, Mr. Chair, for
21 calling on me and giving me the opportunity to make a
22 few comments right now.

23 Commissioner Brisé, as always, a hard act to
24 follow. But as you pointed out, in many states the role
25 of choosing the chair is designated -- or the chair is

1 designated by the governor and in many states by the
2 electorate. However, we have a more active role, and
3 the statute charges us as a collegial body of five with
4 choosing amongst ourselves who will serve in the
5 administrative role as chair for the next two years.
6 And as a former chairman of this body, who was given
7 that honor by my colleagues at the time some years ago,
8 none of whom are sitting here today, however, I think
9 all who have performed that role will agree that there
10 are pros and there are cons. There are additional
11 responsibilities and burdens, but there is also the
12 honor of leadership and helping to set the tone for all
13 of us.

14 It is an important role because in addition to
15 the extensive additional administrative duties, the
16 chairman often serves as the public face of this agency
17 and of our decisions. The chairman is the person who is
18 quoted in the papers, who is summoned by the
19 Legislature, who often shares the decisions that we make
20 with other public officials, who leads us in our
21 meetings before the public.

22 Two years ago I had the honor of nominating my
23 colleague and friend Art Graham to serve in that role
24 for these past two years, and at that time I said that
25 functional organizations usually choose the leaders that

1 are right for the times. I believe that that was true
2 two years ago and I believe that that is true today. We
3 have many, many issues ahead of us this next two years:
4 Challenging rate cases, issues surrounding distributed
5 generation, solar, data privacy and management, cyber
6 security, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency,
7 fuel margins, fuel diversity, and, of course, cost and
8 reliability related to the changes with 111D and the EPA
9 direction, and I could go on. That is actually a short
10 list of all of the issues that we have ahead of us.

11 But here's the most important part, my friend,
12 my colleague Commissioner Brown is qualified, she's done
13 the work, and she is the right person at this time to
14 lead this agency and to represent this agency as we
15 address these issues for Florida, for consumers, and for
16 the public interest.

17 I could list her many qualifications and
18 accomplishments, but we know them. So let me close with
19 this. Instead I'd like to say that Commissioner Brown
20 has the knowledge, the commitment, the enthusiasm, she
21 has my respect, and she is the right person at this time
22 to serve as our chairman for these next two years. It
23 is my honor, it is my privilege to support her, to
24 second the motion by Commissioner Brisé, and I would ask
25 that my fellow Commissioners support the motion as well.

1 Thank you.

2 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Thank you. Any other
3 nominations? Commissioner Patronis.

4 **COMMISSIONER PATRONIS:** Thank you,
5 Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to speak in favor of the
6 motion. I was real excited there for a moment because
7 with Commissioner Brisé's whole presentation, I was
8 excited. I thought, you know, the suspense is killing
9 me. So -- and as I'm sitting here kind of narrowing it
10 down, maybe it will be Lisa, you know. So, I mean --
11 but, you know, the process that I've got to reflect on
12 is being able to join y'all in the whole -- the process
13 of applying. And as I'm trying to sort out the Public
14 Service Commission's role, how I can be effective, and
15 I'm starting to talk to other folks that are friends or
16 contemporaries or work with that say, well, you've got
17 to meet Julie. You know, Julie is the person that
18 you've got to get to know. You know, everybody loves
19 Julie. Everybody knows Julie. So, you know, I finally
20 get to meet this mysterious Julie on really the whole
21 nomination trail, and as -- that's really the only time
22 I've really had the opportunity to speak to her in a
23 candid sense because once we get up here, we get these
24 nice, you know, domes of silence that circle us, you
25 know, I get this really, you know, refreshing

1 perspective about the good that you can do from the
2 Public Service Commission, and I feel like the state is
3 better served with folks like you at our lead.

4 And it's been a real treat to be here with
5 y'all this last ten months, almost 11 months, and I know
6 that I couldn't have been successful going through the
7 nomination and confirmation process if it wasn't for
8 your leadership and your guidance and your help getting
9 me through this. So, anyway, I enthusiastically look
10 forward to casting my vote for you, and thank y'all for
11 allowing me to be here with you.

12 **CHAIRMAN GRAHAM:** Okay. So with that, we will
13 close the nomination. And I can add before we take a
14 vote that if the chairperson is the face of this agency,
15 no offense to my colleague Mr. Brisé, this agency's look
16 has gone up about at ten-fold in the last ten years.

17 (Laughter.)

18 With all that being said, all in favor of the
19 motion, say aye.

20 (Vote taken.)

21 Any opposed? By your action, you have elected
22 Julie Brown as our next chairwoman. Congratulations.

23 (Applause.)

24 Commissioner -- I'm sorry, Chairwoman-Elect
25 Brown, would you like to make a couple of comments?

1 **COMMISSIONER BROWN:** I would, Mr. Chairman.

2 And thank you. I got a little emotional with those
3 comments. They were very dear. And we've said this
4 before, what you see here, we are colleagues, we are all
5 diverse. Well, we are also friends and respect each
6 other, and that is evident by some of the comments you
7 made. And it was just a delight to hear those comments.

8 Commissioner Brisé, thank you for the
9 nomination. Commissioner, Madam President Edgar, thank
10 you for the second, and for all of you for your support
11 here. I am very excited, enthusiastic to help lead this
12 agency over the next two years as we do tackle some of
13 these thornier issues that we are facing, but I do feel
14 prepared for the chairmanship because right up here I
15 serve with some of the greatest, finest leaders of our
16 state, and I've got to watch them here on the dais.

17 Chairman Graham, you've served the Commission
18 as chairman for several years here, multiple terms, one
19 of the few chairmans that actually want more than one
20 term because you are a fine leader, and you have led
21 this agency with focus, with direction, with
22 assertiveness but while also maintaining and fostering a
23 very positive work environment. You've created, helped
24 create Team Florida, as you so aptly call it, and it's
25 just been such a privilege working with you and watching

1 your leadership.

2 Commissioner Edgar, also a former chair, I'm
3 going to go down a list of chairs here, but also a
4 former chair, and the first female president -- first
5 president in Florida that's a Commissioner. We're so
6 proud of her. Every one of us up here benefit so
7 greatly from her wisdom and guidance, advice, and she's
8 just a very good collaborator. She is an invaluable
9 asset to Florida but also on the national level. And
10 we're grateful, I'm grateful to call her friend.

11 Commissioner Brisé, also a former chair,
12 another national leader. He serves on a variety of
13 federal boards, is president of SEARUC, the joint board,
14 Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, among
15 many, many others that I could list too, similar to
16 Commissioner Edgar. He demonstrates passion, humility,
17 compassion, and has this uncanny ability to really
18 empower folks.

19 And to our newest Commissioner, my friend
20 Jimmy Patronis, who's also a very well-respected former
21 legislator among the state, he is my, as he alluded to,
22 my confirmation buddy, and there's no one more fun to go
23 through the process than Commissioner Patronis. He,
24 again, like I said, he has an impeccable reputation
25 around our state. We are so lucky to have you here

1 because you do provide us a perspective on so many
2 issues affecting Florida, and you're always cognizant of
3 the cost impact to customers, and so we're grateful for
4 that.

5 If I could just go on a little bit more. My
6 staff, Katherine and Joann, who help kind of keep me
7 organized and directed and focused, your loyalty and
8 strength really, really help bolster my performance
9 here, so I appreciate that.

10 The most important people, though, really are
11 my family: Hank, Emerson, and Tripp. I love them.
12 They are great. They support me, everything I do.

13 And to our Executive Director, Braulio, great
14 friend, great advisor. We -- it was one of the best
15 decisions we've made since I've been here having you
16 here. You are a great resource here.

17 But, again, the most important people here in
18 the building are the staff. The dedication, the hard
19 work you do, we couldn't be here without you all. We're
20 so lucky to have the best staff in state government and
21 probably in the country, and I'm looking forward to
22 working with you all, continuing to work with you over
23 the next two years.

24 And I'm very excited to take the helm in
25 January, Mr. Chairman. So thank you, guys, so much.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN GRAHAM: Commissioner Brown,
congratulations.

(Nomination of chair concluded.)

1 STATE OF FLORIDA)
2 COUNTY OF LEON) : CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

3
4 I, LINDA BOLES, CRR, RPR, Official Commission
5 Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing
6 proceeding was heard at the time and place herein
7 stated.

8 IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I
9 stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the
10 same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;
11 and that this transcript constitutes a true
12 transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

13 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,
14 employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor
15 am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'
16 attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I
17 financially interested in the action.

18 DATED THIS 12th day of November, 2015.

19
20
21
22
23
24
25


LINDA BOLES, CRR, RPR
FPSC Official Hearings Reporter
(850) 413-6734