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June 7, 2016

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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2016 JUN 10 AM 8:31
COMMISSION
CLERK

Dear Commissioners:

Later this year, you will be voting on FPL's request for a sizable rate increase. The ostensible reasons for the increase are to build a gas-fired plant in Okeechobee and two solar plants, as well as raise FPL's guaranteed profit to a maximum of 12.5%.

This is great for FPL and their investors but not so great for their customers. Private utilities profit from building new facilities, but the gas-fired plant is a problem for several reasons: 1) it would be unnecessary if FPL promoted conservation and rooftop solar instead of opposing them; 2) the fossil-fuel industry is in decline and possibly headed for collapse, according to recent articles by reputable authors ("We could be witnessing the death of the fossil fuel industry"¹; "U.S. oil industry bankruptcy wave nears size of telecom bust"²); and 3), the methane from fracking is a much greater greenhouse-gas problem than CO₂ ("Methane leaks wipe out any climate benefit of fracking"³; "Global warming's terrifying new chemistry"⁴).

There is no justification for these plants based on capacity, which FPL could easily address—as other electric utilities have—by promoting conservation and rooftop solar. Moreover, it's pretty offensive that they want to build two solar plants to sell us what we could produce ourselves, if they didn't actively obstruct our ability to do so.

I understand the political situation: FPL makes campaign contributions to the legislators who nominate you, and if you expect to keep your six-figure jobs, you rubber-stamp whatever FPL sends you. We all remember the four commissioners in 2010 who lost their jobs soon after voting against a proposal FPL favored. I think we all know that these hearings you're holding around the state are just for show. It's also pretty obvious that FPL's request for an increase in guaranteed profit to 12.5% is a throwaway—something you can turn down to show you're supposedly doing your job while allowing them to build the power plants, which is what they really want.

¹ <http://www.alternet.org/environment/we-could-be-witnessing-death-fossil-fuel-industry-will-it-take-rest-economy-down-it>

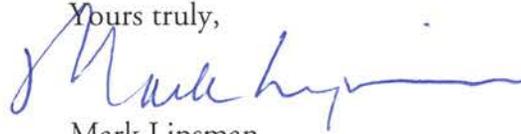
² <https://www.yahoo.com/news/u-oil-industry-bankruptcy-wave-nears-size-telecom-040735389-finance.html>

³ <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/10/22/3582904/methane-leaks-climate-benefit-fracking/>

⁴ <http://www.thenation.com/article/global-warming-terrifying-new-chemistry/>

Don't do that. Reject the whole package. The time for politics as usual—the logrolling, the backroom deals, the nod and the wink—has passed. No doubt you've observed the popularity of Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump. We're entering a new era. People are sick and tired of being victimized by big corporations. Your job is to represent us, *and we expect you to do your job—even if it costs you your job.*

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Lipsman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Lipsman