

DATE: JULY 15, 2016
TO: AARP FLORIDA *AND FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION*
FROM: KEN AND PAT VAN RIPER
(FULL TIME FLORIDA RESIDENTS)
RE: FPL'S PROPOSED EXCESSIVE RATE HIKE

RECEIVED-FPSC
2016 JUL 20 AM 9:20
COMMISSION
CLERK

MANY SENIORS LIKE US LIVE ON FIXED INCOMES IN FLORIDA. WE CANNOT AFFORD A \$1.3 BILLION RATE HIKE WHEN JUST FOUR YEARS AGO, THE FLORIDA STATE PSC APPROVED ALMOST A BILLION DOLLAR INCREASE.

A GOOD PART OF THIS PROPOSED INCREASE (AND WE SPECULATE WHAT PART OF THE LAST INCREASE) WILL BE USED TO BUILD THE OKEECHOBEE CLEAN ENERGY CENTER. THE QUESTION IS: HOW MANY OF FPL'S 10 MILLION CUSTOMERS WILL BENEFIT BY THIS COSTLY EXPENDITURE OF CUSTOMER RATES AND RATE HIKES NOW AND IN THE FUTURE?

FPL SPOKESWOMAN SARAH GATEWOOD PRAISES HER COMPANY'S SMART, LONG-TERM INVESTMENT AND THE TANGIBLE BENEFITS FOR ITS CUSTOMERS. APPARENTLY SHE IS NOT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPORTANT FACT THAT **THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR SENIORS WILL BE SEVERLY IMPACTED BY THIS RATE HIKE.** WHO WILL BENEFIT MOST FROM THIS? THE CUSTOMERS ARE THE ONES WHO WILL "PAY THE PRICE" WHILE THE STOCKHOLDERS AND EMPLOYERS REAP THE BENEFITS! **THE FLORIDA STATE PSC GOES RIGHT ALONG WITH FPL'S REQUEST. WHY?**

IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT FPL'S PARENT COMPANY 'S STOCK HAS RISEN FROM \$56.00 A SHARE TO A RECENT PRICE OF APPROXIMATELY \$120.00. STOCKHOLDERS ARE VERY PLEASED.

HERE ARE A FEW RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FPL AND THE FLORIDA STATE POWER COMMISSION.

CUT BACK ON CUSTOMER RATE INCREASES BY USING THE HIGH EARNINGS AND PRUDENT RESERVES TO PAY FOR THE PROJECTED COSTS. ISN'T FPL AN ORGANIZATION TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA AND NOT THE REVERSE? **THE MAJORITY OF US ARE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO TAKE ON THIS INCREASE WITHOUT ELIMINATING OTHER NECESSARY EXPENDITURES.**

USE FPL EARNINGS TO MODERNIZE AND UPGRADE. DELAY THE SOLAR CENTERS FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS. AS FOR OKEECHOBEE, DELAY THE COMPLETION OF THIS PROJECT UNTIL 2025. MEANWHILE USE MORE EARNINGS TO PUT ASIDE FUNDS FOR SOLAR CENTERS AND OKEECHOBEE AND PAY LESS DIVIDENDS TO STOCKHOLDERS.

SARAH , IF THIS RATE HIKE BECOMES A REALITY WITHOUT CONSIDERING ALL THE CONSEQUENCES AS WELL AS THE BENEFITS, WON'T SENIORS AND OTHERS SUFFER THE MOST?

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