



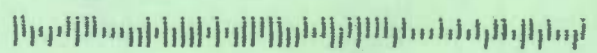
FLASEIA  
2555 Porter Lake Dr Ste 106  
Sarasota, FL 34240

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Florida Public Service Commission  
Office of Commission Clerk  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

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January 29, 2017

Chairman Julie Brown  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re; Gulf Power Rate Increase Request

Dear Commissioner Brown,

I appreciate the commission holding the public hearings in regards to the rate increase requested by Gulf Power.

Representing the solar industry in Florida as well as consumers who wish to adopt solar, I am concerned with the 155% increase to the base rate. Regardless of the efforts of consumers to conserve, investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy, a gulf power customer will pay more.

As a regulated monopoly, Gulf Power is the only choice a panhandle consumer has for electricity. Homeowners and businesses do not have the ability to select another power company when the cost is too high or the terms are unfair and unreasonable.

A transition to higher base rate fee structure will adversely affect not only the solar industry but, electricians, HVAC contractors, window installers, insulation companies, materials distributors, engineers, county permitting offices and more. This rate structure change is harmful to small business and the Florida economy.

We understand a business must make a profit and continue to make investments in infrastructure. The rate increase requested by Gulf Power is unreasonable and leaves panhandle consumers no options to reduce their cost for electricity.

The membership of FlaSEIA respectfully request that you deny the increase to the base rate and allow Gulf Power to refile another request where electric users can reduce their cost by conserving energy and investing in energy efficiency. I believe this is the fairest scenario to Ratepayers, Florida small businesses and Gulf Power.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Altier", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Patrick Altier  
President FlaSEIA

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