



March 15, 2017

Ms. Carlotta Stauffer, Commission Clerk
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

RE: Docket No. 160186-EI – Petition for increase in rates by Gulf Power Company

Dear Ms. Stauffer,

I am writing on behalf of the nearly 2000 members in the Pensacola Association of REALTORS® to voice our opposition to the dramatic base rate increase sought by Gulf Power Company.

As business people, we understand that the cost of doing business rises inexorably, but the proposed 166% jump in the base rate is, in our view, excessive. It is our understanding that Gulf Power already has one of the highest, if not *the* highest base rate in the country.

We are also concerned that the shift of revenue from a usage basis to a recurring, exorbitant base rate will serve as a disincentive to those trying to conserve their energy use.

Finally, we fear for those retirees on a fixed income who will suffer as they try to absorb this dramatic rate increase into their budgets.

We hope the Commission will take these factors into consideration as they deliberate on Gulf Power's request and grant a more reasonable increase in response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'John Waas'.

John Waas, 2017 President
Pensacola Association of REALTORS®, Inc.

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