

Sandra Soto

From: Katherine Fleming
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 4:58 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 160101-WS
Attachments: 3-23-17. Letter to Corcoran & Simpson.pdf

Please place the attached in Docket Correspondence, Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket No. 160101-WS. Thank you.

Katherine E. Fleming
Chief Advisor to Commissioner Brown
Florida Public Service Commission
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STATE OF FLORIDA

JULIE I. BROWN
CHAIRMAN



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Public Service Commission

March 23, 2017

The Honorable Richard Corcoran
Speaker, Florida House of Representatives
Room 420, The Capitol, 402 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

The Honorable Wilton Simpson
Senate Majority Leader, Florida Senate
Room 330, Senate Office Building,
404 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Speaker Corcoran and Senate Majority Leader Simpson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the rate increase requested by Utilities, Inc. of Florida (UIF), dated March 23, 2017. I appreciate you bringing this issue to my attention, as this is the first time that I've heard of it. The Florida Public Commission (Commission) always welcomes timely public comment concerning matters that come before it, and I strongly believe that hearing from customers is the best way to make an informed decision.

The Commission strives to go above and beyond in complying with the spirit and intent of Section 350.01(8), Florida Statutes, which governs our public meeting procedures. During every file and suspend rate case, the Commission visits as many central locations in a utility's service area as feasibly possible to conduct service hearings and learn first-hand from customers about the utility's performance. Other alternatives for customer input are available and encouraged, whether by mail or online. In addition, in the interest in transparency, our service hearings are live-streamed on the internet for those who cannot attend. The Commission also considers input from the Office of Public Counsel, who represents the customers, when setting the date and location of each service hearing.

In this particular case, the Commission held an abundant amount of service hearings in order to solicit as much public comment from UIF's customers. To put this into perspective, in the case of UIF and its estimated 60,000 customers, the Commission held eight (8) service hearings throughout its service territory in Florida. In comparison, in the most recent rate case for FPL and its estimated 4.8 million customers, the Commission held nine service (9) hearings throughout FPL's service territory.

Under Florida law, anyone may address the Commission at the service hearings, although, in order to protect the due process rights of all parties, only parties of record may address the Commission during a formal evidentiary proceeding. Given the extraordinary nature of this matter, I am fully committed to providing for the continued participation of interested persons in our process. My office will continue coordinating with the Office of Public Counsel to ensure that the interests of your constituents will be met and will keep all parties apprised.

As always, please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie I. Brown".

Julie I. Brown, Chairman

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PSC Website: <http://www.floridapsc.com>

Commissioner.Brown@psc.state.fl.us

The Honorable Richard Corcoran, Speaker
The Honorable Wilton Simpson, Senate Majority Leader
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cc: Carlotta Stauffer, Commission Clerk
Commissioner Patronis
Commissioner Graham
Commissioner Brisé
Commissioner Polmann
Braulio Baez, Executive Director, Florida Public Service Commission