

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Consideration of the stipulation and settlement agreement between Gulf Power Company, the Office of Public Counsel, Florida Industrial Power Users Group, and Southern Alliance for Clean Energy regarding the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

DOCKET NO. 20180039-EI

DATED: August 7, 2018

MOTION TO INTERVENE OF THE FLORIDA RETAIL FEDERATION

The Florida Retail Federation (“FRF”), pursuant to Chapters 120 and 366, Florida Statutes,¹ and Rule 28-106.205, Florida Administrative Code (“F.A.C.”), hereby moves for leave to intervene in the above-styled docket. The FRF is an established association with more than 8,000 members in Florida, who provide retail goods and services to Floridians. Many of the FRF’s members are retail customers of Gulf Power Company (“Gulf” or “Gulf Power”).

The FRF has participated as an intervenor party in many dockets involving Gulf Power and other Florida investor-owned utilities over the past 18 years, including Gulf Power rate cases, Fuel Cost Recovery Dockets, and others. The FRF respectfully moves to intervene in the above-styled docket to protect its members’ interests in the Commission’s consideration of how to fairly address the tax impacts associated with the Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Acts of 2017 (the “Act”), which, among other things, reduced the federal corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent, thereby reducing the costs incurred by Gulf and Florida’s other investor-owned utilities. The interests of the

¹ All references herein to the Florida Statutes are to the 2018 edition thereof.

many members of the FRF who are Gulf customers will be directly affected by the Commission's decisions in this case, and accordingly, the FRF is entitled to intervene to protect its members' substantial interests. In further support of its Petition to Intervene, the Florida Retail Federation states as follows.

1. The name, address, and telephone number of the FRF are as follows:

Florida Retail Federation
227 South Adams Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
Telephone (850) 222-4082
Telecopier (850) 226-4082.

2. All pleadings, orders and correspondence should be directed to the FRF's representatives as follows:

Robert Scheffel Wright
John T. LaVia, III
Gardner, Bist, Bowden, Bush, Dee, LaVia & Wright, P.A.
1300 Thomaswood Drive
Tallahassee, Florida 32308
Telephone (850) 385-0070
Facsimile (850) 385-5416.

3. The agency affected by this Motion to Intervene is:

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850.

4. The Florida Retail Federation is an established association of more than 8,000 members in Florida. Many of the FRF's members are retail electric customers of Gulf Power. The FRF's members require adequate, reasonably-priced electricity in order to conduct their businesses consistently with the needs of their customers and ownership.

5. Statement of Affected Interests. In this docket, the Commission will consider the tax impacts associated with the Act on Gulf and Gulf's customers, including many members of the FRF. The Commission will necessarily have to consider how to fairly allocate the tax cuts included in the Act between Gulf and Gulf's customers and adjust the rates of Gulf's customer to flow back the appropriate tax savings. As the representative of its many members who are retail customers of Gulf, the Florida Retail Federation's and its members' substantial interests will be affected by any action that the Commission takes in this docket.

6. The FRF's substantial interests are of sufficient immediacy to entitle the FRF to participate in the proceeding and are the type of interests that the proceeding is designed to protect. To participate as a party in this proceeding, an intervenor must demonstrate that its substantial interests will be affected by the proceeding. Specifically, the intervenor must demonstrate that it will suffer a sufficiently immediate injury in fact that is of the type the proceeding is designed to protect. Ameristeel Corp. v. Clark, 691 So. 2d 473 (Fla. 1997); Agrico Chemical Co. v. Dep't of Environmental Regulation, 406 So. 2d 478 (Fla. 2d DCA 1981), rev. denied, 415 So. 2d 1359 (Fla. 1982). Here, the FRF is the representative of a substantial number of its more than 8,000 members who are retail electric customers of Gulf Power, and these members' substantial interests will be directly affected by the Commission's consideration of the tax impacts associated with the Act. Thus, the interests that the FRF seeks to protect are of sufficient immediacy to warrant intervention, and the nature of its members' interests in having the Commission fairly determine the tax impacts of the Act on retail customers' rates is exactly the type of

interest that this proceeding is designed to protect. The FRF simply and properly seeks to protect its members' substantial interests as they will be affected by the Commission's consideration of this important issue.

7. Associational Standing. Under Florida law, to establish standing as an association representing its members' substantial interests, an association such as the Florida Retail Federation must demonstrate three things:

- a. that a substantial number of its members, although not necessarily a majority, are substantially affected by the agency's decisions;
- b. that the intervention by the association is within the association's general scope of interest and activity; and
- c. that the relief requested is of a type appropriate for an association to obtain on behalf of its members.

Florida Home Builders Ass'n v. Dep't of Labor and Employment Security, 412 So. 2d 351, 353-54 (Fla. 1982). The FRF satisfies all of these "associational standing" requirements. A substantial number of the FRF's more than 8,000 members receive their electric service from Gulf, for which they are charged the applicable retail rates approved by the Commission. The FRF exists to represent its members' interests in a number of venues, including the Florida Public Service Commission, and the FRF has regularly participated in rate cases, Fuel Cost Recovery Clause proceedings and other dockets involving Gulf over at least the past ten years. Finally, the relief requested -- intervention and fair treatment of FRF members -- is across-the-board relief that will apply to all of

the FRF's members in the same way; therefore, the requested relief is of the type that is appropriate for an association to obtain on behalf of its members.

8. Disputed Issues of Material Fact. The following are potential disputed issues of material fact that the Commission will have to decide in this proceeding:

- a. What is the amount of tax savings to Gulf associated with the Act?
- b. How should Gulf's rates be adjusted to appropriately flow back the tax savings associated with the Act to Gulf's customers?

The FRF reserves its rights to add other issues pursuant to the Order Establishing Procedure for this docket.

9. Statement of Ultimate Facts Alleged – FRF's Standing. A substantial number of the FRF's more than 8,000 members are Gulf's customers. These customers and their substantial interests are subject to determination in and will be directly affected by the Commission's decisions in this docket. Intervention in this proceeding is within the scope of the FRF's purposes in promoting and protecting its members' interests, and the relief sought is appropriate for the FRF to seek on behalf of its members. Accordingly, as the representative association of its members who are Gulf customers, the FRF is entitled to intervene in this proceeding.

10. Statement of Ultimate Facts Alleged – Substantive. The FRF's members who are served by Gulf, and all of Gulf's retail electric customers, are entitled to have the Commission determine retail service rates for Gulf that fairly reflect the reduction in Gulf's cost to serve that has resulted from the Tax Act. It is the burden of Gulf to prove

that any proposed allocation of the tax impacts of the Act result in fair, just and reasonable rate for Gulf's customers.

11. Statutes and Rules That Entitle the Florida Retail Federation to Relief. The applicable statutes and rules that entitle the FRF to relief include, but are not limited to, Sections 120.57(1), 366.04(1), 366.05(1), 366.06(1), and 366.07, Florida Statutes, and Rule 28-106.205, Florida Administrative Code. Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C., provides that persons whose substantial interests are subject to determination in, or may be affected through, an agency proceeding are entitled to intervene in such proceeding. A substantial number of the FRF's more than 8,000 members are retail customers of Gulf, and accordingly, their substantial interests are subject to determination in and will be affected by the Commission's decisions in this docket. As the representative association of its members who are customers of Gulf, the FRF is entitled to intervene herein. The above-cited sections of Chapter 366 relate to the Commission's jurisdiction over utility rates and the Commission's statutory mandate to ensure that the rates of public utilities, including Gulf, are fair, just, and reasonable. The facts alleged here by the FRF demonstrate (a) that the Commission's decisions herein will have a significant impact on Gulf's rates and charges, (b) that a substantial number of the FRF's members will be directly impacted by the Commission's decisions regarding their rates and charges, and (c) accordingly, that these statutes provide the basis for the relief requested by the FRF in this Motion to Intervene.

12. Conferral with Parties. The undersigned has solicited the positions of the current parties of record to this docket regarding this motion to intervene and is

authorized to state that: Gulf Power Company, the Office of Public Counsel, the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, and the Commission Staff do not object to this motion. The undersigned was unable to reach counsel for the Florida Industrial Power Users Group, but states in good faith, based on recent experience with similar motions, that he believes that FIPUG will not object to the motion.

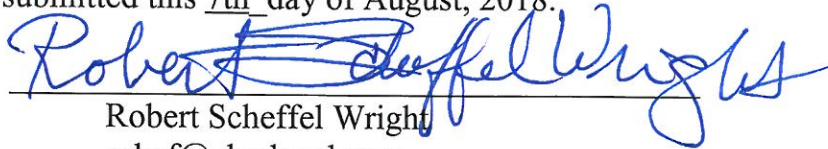
CONCLUSION

13. The Florida Retail Federation is an established association that, consistent with its purposes and history of intervening in Commission proceedings to protect its members' interests under the Commission's statutes, rules, and orders, seeks to intervene in the above-styled docket. The FRF seeks to intervene in order to protect its members' substantial interests in having the Commission consider the tax impacts of the Act and adjust Gulf's rates so that they are fair, just, and reasonable. The interests of the FRF's members that the FRF seeks to protect via its intervention and participation in this case are immediate and of the type to be protected by the Commission through this proceeding.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, the Florida Retail Federation respectfully requests the Florida Public Service Commission to enter its order GRANTING this Motion to Intervene and requiring that all parties to this proceeding serve copies of all pleadings, notices, and other documents on the FRF's representatives indicated in paragraph 2 above.

Respectfully submitted this 7th day of August, 2018.



Robert Scheffel Wright

schef@gbwlegal.com

John T. LaVia, III

jlavia@gbwlegal.com

Gardner, Bist, Bowden, Bush, Dee, LaVia & Wright, P.A.

1300 Thomaswood Drive

Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Telephone (850) 385-0070

Facsimile (850) 385-5416

Attorneys for the Florida Retail Federation

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by electronic mail on this 7th day of August, 2018, to the following:

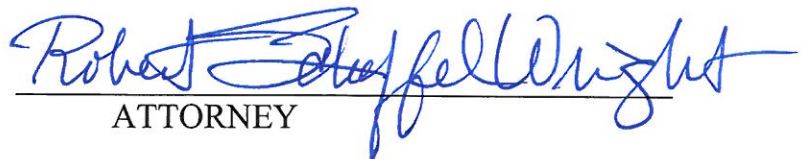
Suzanne Brownless
Office of the General Counsel
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850
SBrownle@psc.state.fl.us

Jeffrey A. Stone
Gulf Power Company
One Energy Place
Pensacola FL 32520
jastone@southernco.com

J.R. Kelly / Virginia Ponder
Office of Public Counsel
c/o The Florida Legislature
111 West Madison Street, Room 112
Tallahassee, FL 323989-1400
kelly.jr@leg.state.fl.us
ponder.virginia@leg.state.fl.us

George Cavros
120 E. Oakland Park Blvd.
Fort Lauderdale FL 33334
george@cavros-law.com

Jon C. Moyle, Jr. / Karen A. Putnal
Florida Industrial Power Users Group
The Moyle Law Firm
118 North Gadsden Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
jmoyle@moylelaw.com
kputnal@moylelaw.com


ATTORNEY