

Dorothy Menasco

From: Dorothy Menasco on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Friday, August 16, 2019 4:58 PM
To: 'acorrea@earthjustice.org'
Subject: FW: [Time sensitive] Dockets 20190015-20190021 - Filing Retraction for EEA Hearing + Public Comment submission
Attachments: AUGUST 12 2019 PUBLIC MEETING.pdf

Good afternoon, Ana,

This email is sent as a confirmation that the attached transcript of the public meeting will be placed in Consumer Correspondence for Dockets 20190015-20190021.

Sincerely,

*Dorothy Menasco
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850
(850) 413-6770*

Please note: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail communications may be subject to public disclosure.

From: Ana Correa [<mailto:acorrea@earthjustice.org>]
Sent: Friday, August 16, 2019 2:51 PM
To: Dorothy Menasco; Records Clerk
Cc: bmarshall@earthjustice.org
Subject: [Time sensitive] Dockets 20190015-20190021 - Filing Retraction for EEA Hearing + Public Comment submission

Good afternoon Dorothy,

The filing from today under the confirmation number **18744** done on behalf of Bradley Marshall for dockets 20190015-20190021 needs to be retracted. It is titled *Public Comments for Energy Efficiency Hearing for Numeric Conservation Goals*. You can reach me at 754-422-8327 for further questions.

The Comments are attached for correct submission to the Clerk's office.

Thank you.

Ana C. Correa
Litigation Assistant
Florida Regional Office

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Because the earth needs a good lawyer

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PUBLIC COMMENT

In re:
PSC DOCKET NO. 20190015-EG
PSC DOCKET NO. 20190016-EG
PSC DOCKET NO. 20190018-EG
PSC DOCKET NO. 20190019-EG
PSC DOCKET NO. 20190020-EG
PSC DOCKET NO. 20190021-EG

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PROCEEDINGS: PUBLIC COMMENT

DATE: Monday, August 12, 2019

TIME: Commenced: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Florida Peoples Advocacy Center
603 North Martin Luther King Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

REPORTED BY: DANA W. REEVES
Court Reporter and
Notary Public in and for
the State of Florida at Large

PREMIER REPORTING
114 W. 5TH AVENUE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
(850) 894-0828

1 PUBLIC COMMENT

2 (Witnesses sworn en masse.)

3 (Interpreter sworn.)

4 MS. MEDRANO: My name is Lydia Medrano and I
5 live in Tampa. That's where I raise my family. I
6 retire right now from county government. I used to
7 work as a researcher, contract manager and
8 ombudsman for the agency that I was working with.
9 I'm here representing LULAC, the League of Latin
10 American Citizens. We call it LULAC. It's a
11 Hispanic civil rights organization, the oldest and
12 largest volunteer base in the nation. LULAC's
13 mission is to advance the economic condition,
14 education, attainment, political influence,
15 housing, health and civil rights of the Hispanic
16 population living in the United States. I am the
17 immediate past national vice president for the
18 southeast region. As such, I was a member of the
19 LULAC National Board of Directors. I continue to
20 serve LULAC as Director of Florida District 1 in
21 Hillsborough County. The focus of my work is in
22 organizing councils, developing awareness and
23 empowering the communities.

24 The LULAC national assembly, in its convention
25 this July 2019, affirmed three things: A, the

1 right of people to breathe air free of pollutants.
2 And, two, to support its efforts to achieve zero
3 greenhouse gas emissions, like the use of equipment
4 that emits zero pollution. And, third, it affirms
5 its support for the use of renewable energy and
6 legislative initiatives for low-cost solar
7 programs.

8 I respectfully ask the Florida Public Service
9 Commission to take this standard-setting meeting to
10 reset the ten-year energy goal -- energy
11 conservation goals, with a strong energy efficiency
12 and solar goals for the utilities in the state.
13 Please put consumers first because moderate- to
14 low-income consumers in particular live in a tight
15 budget and will benefit from reduced energy costs.
16 There are millions of low- to middle-income people
17 in Florida that pay a disproportionate share of
18 their income in energy. Regardless of race or
19 ethnicity, energy costs impact their well-being.
20 In addition, pollutants put them at greater risk of
21 poor health and probably death.

22 LULAC members and others we hear from in the
23 Tampa Bay area say that they have to sacrifice
24 basic necessities to be able to pay energy bills.
25 Many times, they cannot afford medicines, food, air

1 conditioning, life-saving equipment and other basic
2 necessities. They are low-to-mid -- these are low-
3 to mid-income individuals, minorities, disabled,
4 families with children, homebound individuals with
5 chronic illnesses, et cetera.

6 Waste from emissions from power plants
7 threaten our quality of life. In Florida, we live
8 in a constant threat from severe weather, flooding,
9 heat and pollution. Florida is the leader on solar
10 energy, but it is almost last in terms of energy
11 efficiency, the only last one is Alabama.

12 The utility companies in the Sunshine State
13 must focus on clean energy. This can happen if the
14 PSC sets the highest -- highest-energy-efficiency
15 goals.

16 Thank you and I hope my message reaches all
17 the Commissioners. Thank you.

18 (Whereupon, the following statement provided
19 through Tania Sadler, English-Spanish interpreter.)

20 MS. MEDINA: My name is Maria Medina. I have
21 lived in Florida for 21 years. There are four
22 people that live in my home and I live in Tampa.

23 I have worked for the Florida Family Primary
24 Care Center Company for five years as a community
25 liaison. I work mainly with the elderly.

1 I belong to several community organizations
2 like the Asociacion Dominicana de Tampa, which is
3 the Association of Dominicans from Tampa and the
4 League of United Latin American Citizens, LULAC.
5 The mission of the Asociacion Dominicana is to
6 promote Dominican culture and offer support to our
7 community. The mission of LULAC is to improve
8 financial conditions, education, political
9 influence, housing, health and the civil rights of
10 Hispanics that live in the United States.

11 I'm here today to ask the Public Service
12 Commission, PSC, to establish energy goals that are
13 efficient and within reach of the consumers. We
14 ask that they place the interest of the consumers
15 above the interest of the energy companies.

16 I ask the PSC to establish energy efficiency
17 goals to help families of low and middle income
18 while at the same time doing what is right for the
19 environment. The environment affects the health of
20 children, adults and the elderly enormously. There
21 is a lot of pollution in Florida and I see this
22 everyday when I talk to my elderly clients.
23 Furthermore, the elderly depend on the Social
24 Security to cover their expenses and they are the
25 ones that suffer the most because they cannot pay

1 for their medications, food, housing, and other
2 essential expenses.

3 Preventive illnesses end up becoming chronic
4 illnesses and sometimes lead to death. I
5 personally have allergies, asthma and rheumatoid
6 arthritis, but I have to work to survive.

7 I have attached evidence of the cost of
8 electricity in my home. During the last 20 months,
9 the electricity cost \$4,211. 2018, the electricity
10 cost \$2,625, an average of \$219 a month. During
11 the last eight months of this year, it has cost
12 1,586, which is an average of \$198.25 a month.
13 This is very high for my budget, considering that I
14 did turn off the air conditioning when it wasn't
15 too hot, even though I am an asthmatic and I have
16 allergies. The expenses are very high, since I do
17 have a son who's in college and I have to help him
18 with his education expenses. Furthermore, I have
19 to pay insurance on two cars, a mortgage, a car
20 loan, gasoline for my car, because my office
21 requires that I travel to other clinics and I also
22 have a debt with the IRS.

23 If the energy expenses were lower, I would be
24 able to help my son with his education, my
25 medications, which cost \$100 a month because I have

1 asthma and rheumatoid arthritis. I would like to
2 see more solar energy programs available for
3 families of low and moderate income. It's
4 important to conserve energy so that we pollute
5 less and we can face the environmental crisis.

6 Thank you very much to the Commission for its
7 time, and I hope that strict energy efficiency
8 objectives and solar are adopted.

9 MR. SINCLAIR: My name is David Sinclair. I
10 live at 8434 Pebble Circle, Tampa, 33615.

11 The community where I reside is a retirement
12 community where I live with my 95-year-old father,
13 for whom I'm the sole caregiver. I'm a retired
14 social worker and a retired public school teacher.

15 I do volunteer work for several non-profits to
16 which I belong and I'm a member in good standing in
17 all of them. Among these organizations, which I
18 belong to, is the League of United Latin American
19 Citizens, LULAC, L-U-L-A-C, which is the oldest
20 Hispanic civil rights organization in the United
21 States.

22 Here in Florida I am LULAC's chairman for
23 environment and climate issues. I serve as the
24 source of valuable information for our members and
25 what is of concern to Floridians and what they can

1 do to actively get involved in environmental and
2 climate justice issues. Such issues include
3 matters of energy efficiency, climate-related heat
4 stress and our community's right to breathe air
5 free of pollutants, and we support efforts to
6 achieve zero greenhouse gas emissions by opposing
7 any projects or proposals for new or expanded oil
8 and frack gas infrastructure.

9 I'm also a member of Organize Florida's
10 Climate Justice Committee in Tampa. Organize
11 Florida is a community-based nonprofit organization
12 of low- and moderate-income people dedicate to the
13 principles of social, racial and economic justice.
14 Organize Florida's Climate Justice Committee seeks
15 to build just, equitable and resilient communities,
16 particularly to stop fracking and the expansion of
17 fracked gas use by Florida utilities.

18 Furthermore, I'm also on the steering
19 committee of the Florida Interfaith Climate Actions
20 Network, seeking to raise consciousness on the
21 environmental and climate-related burdens of
22 under-served frontline communities in our state.

23 So you may wonder why I'm here today during
24 the Public Service Commission's FEECA hearings.

25 I'm here because the issue of setting higher energy

1 efficient standards for Florida utilities is of
2 most concern to me as a customer of Tampa Electric
3 and as a Floridian with a conscious fed up with the
4 poor record of energy conservation in our state and
5 fed up with the very low energy efficiency
6 standards set at present here in Florida.

7 So to further elaborate on the specifics of my
8 reason for being here at the 2019 FEECA hearings, I
9 will say the following: First, I need the Florida
10 Public Service Commission to make good decisions,
11 which help the consumer, not just favor the welfare
12 of the utilities. Second, I need the PSC to make
13 good decisions that promote behavioral and
14 operational changes by residents and building
15 owners. Third, I need the PSC to keep its eye on
16 the prize, which should be the betterment of the
17 health of our community, which will result from
18 higher energy efficiency standards and less energy
19 waste.

20 Additionally, I will state that my reason for
21 being here at these hearings is that I want to ask
22 the PSC to be more accountable to all Floridians.
23 I ask who does the PSC stand up for? I ask, isn't
24 the PSC just a puppet for the utilities in Florida,
25 which see the business of producing and

1 distributing energy as a cash cow? Finally, I ask,
2 does the PSC realize that a strong demand-side
3 management program, especially for renewable energy
4 systems, would provide customers with economic
5 relief they seek, because such a program is
6 actually in line with the best management practices
7 in other states, which consider systemic benefits
8 of efficiency.

9 In summary, whose side is the PSC really on?
10 Well, you see, I don't mince my words. I believe
11 that the climate crisis is intensifying and Florida
12 is its bull's-eye. I wonder whether the PSC even
13 sees its role as a force in helping our state to
14 reduce the impact of pollution from fossil fuels.
15 I wonder whether the need for more solar energy
16 programs in Florida is falling on deaf ears at the
17 PSC. Perhaps I'm mistaken and the PSC really cares
18 about the need for low-or moderate-income families
19 to have lower energy bills, through knowing more
20 about energy efficiency.

21 Thank you for your time.

22 (Whereupon, the following statement provided
23 through Tania Sadler, English-Spanish interpreter.)

24 MR. JUARBE: My name is Cesar Juarbe. I'm
25 originally from Puerto Rico. I came here because

1 of the Hurricane Maria and, well, I live with my
2 sister and my nephews. My electric company is FPL
3 and I come to express my ideas about energy and
4 renewable energy.

5 First of all, the issue of renewable energy
6 and energy in general is a matter of civil rights.
7 And I say it's a matter of civil rights because our
8 constitution guarantees us a right to life. And
9 that right to a life is not really so if what we're
10 living is an unhealthy life. There is a difference
11 between being alive and living with dignity.

12 For example, you could see somebody who's
13 living with cancer or somebody who's bedridden and
14 they are alive, but those are not the conditions
15 that are most adequate and what we would want for
16 people.

17 Now, the way I see it, the energy or resources
18 of energy, which would be oil and carbon, really
19 affect the environment and they affect the health
20 of people, creating asthma or cancer of which I am
21 also a patient.

22 Well, I would like to clarify. I'm not
23 currently a cancer patient, but I was a cancer
24 patient four years ago.

25 And as a father and grandfather, I worry about

1 the future and about the world that we're going to
2 leave for the children, for my daughter and
3 grandchildren. I understand that we have to create
4 a better future for the future generations, but
5 that begins with doing something today. We also
6 have a right to live in a healthy world.

7 Lastly, I understand -- the way I understand
8 it, reducing the costs of energy will contribute to
9 all of the economy of the state. Because the
10 population of Florida is 21.5 million people and if
11 the energy costs were reduced by just one dollar
12 per person, that's 21.5 million dollars. Over the
13 course of 12 months, 258 million dollars and that
14 is money that isn't going anywhere. It's going to
15 stay within the economy of the state and contribute
16 to the economy here.

17 MS. MILCH: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My
18 name is Gabrielle Milch. I live in Longwood,
19 Florida in Seminole County. I am here today to
20 please ask you to keep the energy efficient goals
21 and incentives and programs for Floridians in place
22 and consider expansion of the current programs.
23 Please help keep our growing population energy
24 secure in a sustainable fashion. I have lived in
25 my home for 25 years and there are about 2,600

1 homes in my subdivision. Over the years, our
2 family has utilized the different energy efficient
3 programs provided by Florida Power and Duke Energy.
4 Our home was constructed in the late '70s and
5 when -- we have invested in many efficient
6 improvements to lower our bills and save energy
7 over the years. I believe in strong, clean energy
8 independence and moving away from dirty fossil
9 fuel. We raised our three children in this home
10 and have certainly -- I've certainly done my share
11 of reminding folks to save energy by turning the
12 lights off, fans, shutting the refrigerator door
13 and keeping the air at 78 to 80 degrees. I work in
14 public education, environmental protection and
15 sustainability.

16 I rode here today in a rental car, a Tesla S.
17 I encourage each of you to rent an electric car to
18 travel to your next out-of-town meeting. We own a
19 Nissan Leaf and a conventional car. Coming today
20 for this meeting has been an adventure and a quest
21 to implore you to please adopt and continue to set
22 strong energy efficient and solar goals for our
23 state. I am here to remind you we have a huge
24 influx of new residents, aging housing stock and so
25 much new construction. Conservation of our energy

1 resources will help protect our future in Florida.

2 I am a volunteer with the League of Women
3 Voters in Seminole and Orange counties and the
4 Co-Chair of the Natural Resources Committee. In
5 2019, I was chair of our county's solar
6 cooperative. I was very pleased that we, as
7 volunteers and with Solar United Neighbors, could
8 help many folks get solar information.

9 Before my participation in this volunteer
10 program, we installed solar in our home in 2018. I
11 was unsure about making this investment at the
12 time, but now I am certain it was the right choice.
13 Improving and expanding solar rebate programs for
14 the Sunshine State will benefit our current and
15 growing population.

16 Air conditioning has made life possible in
17 Florida. Why are strong efficiency goals important
18 to me? I have had high energy bills in the past
19 while raising my family and could certainly have
20 used the extra money spent on energy towards
21 important expenses incurred while raising a family.
22 When my kids were small, we signed up for our
23 utility's program not to use as much energy during
24 peak demand times. It was very difficult to get
25 the kids to do their homework after school and for

1 me to prepare dinner when it was so warm in our
2 home. I think about how many low-income families
3 and elderly and other folks who could not be here
4 today to ask you to maintain and increase the
5 energy efficient goals and incentives to help them
6 reduce their bills.

7 I wish we had solar energy back in our home in
8 those days. It was an investment that I believe
9 that has helped us save money and generate energy
10 to help other Floridians.

11 The federal rebate was a wonderful addition to
12 our decision. I have concern for lower-income
13 folks who could benefit from the current energy
14 rebates and incentives that may not have had an
15 opportunity -- that many not have that opportunity
16 in the future. By utilizing -- by utilities
17 investing just one two-percent of the utility's
18 profits for the customers to become energy
19 efficient and more resilient, we all win.

20 Homeowners and renters who use the incentives
21 save money and energy. We get a reduction and more
22 efficient use of energy, potentially delaying the
23 construction of dirty power plants and creating a
24 more secure energy portfolio. By using energy
25 wisely, we can keep our air, water cleaner and

1 lessen the impacts of climate change. Florida is
2 so vulnerable. Resiliency and energy efficiency
3 are also critical, especially during hurricanes and
4 recovery periods.

5 Thank you for considering my request today and
6 helping others. Please strengthen our state's
7 security and bright future. Adopt strong and
8 effective energy efficiency goals and solar
9 support. We need a commitment to clean and
10 renewable energy.

11 MR. QUINONES: Hello. My name is Edward
12 Quinones. I'm a resident of Clearwater, Florida
13 and a resident since 1989, some 30 years. I have
14 four children, five grandchildren and two
15 great-grandchildren. I am the chair for the State
16 of Florida for LULAC, the League of United Latin
17 American Citizens, for human rights. I'm on the
18 Board of Directors of Puerto Rico Connect and
19 secretary of the Hispanic Caucus of Pinellas County
20 Democratic Party.

21 I'm here to demand that the Public Service
22 Commission place high goals for energy efficiency,
23 especially solar. Why do I say that? It is really
24 preposterous to hear in the Florida state, the
25 state of sunshine, be so absent with solar panels.

1 I lived in Spain many years and in Spain, another
2 sunshine country, they have solar panels on every
3 building in Madrid and cover large areas of the
4 land and they are serious about saving their
5 citizens on energy costs. For example, their
6 gasoline is probably in the range of \$5 or more.
7 So, in their case, they're working very hard to
8 take advantage of one of their great resources,
9 which is the sunshine.

10 So this is -- I'm a senior citizen and
11 obviously any savings for me in a fixed income will
12 work wonders and I thank you very much.

13 (Whereupon, the following statement provided
14 through Tania Sadler, English-Spanish interpreter.)

15 MS. MANUELA: Okay. I would like to do my
16 interview in Spanish because I would feel more
17 comfortable.

18 Well, so let me tell you, I have been a nurse
19 for four years. I know what is human pain. That
20 has taught me to know what is human pain. I am a
21 grandmother -- and great-grandmother. I have 12
22 grandchildren and I have great-grandchildren. And
23 12 and 12. That's 24. So that means that my
24 mission is to speak for children and the young,
25 because they're the future and we have to guide

1 them, we have to teach them, and we have to love
2 them and respect them. And I feel that the climate
3 is very important right now. It's very important
4 for the health and so that we can protect humanity
5 and the children and their future. I would like
6 for the legislators to create awareness. That is
7 important and that they do what is best for the
8 community.

9 There are many things that nowadays are not
10 going well and we have to fight for the well-being
11 of the country. And there are many more things,
12 but I want to be brief. And I pray to God above
13 that He shine a light on you so that we can deal
14 with this situation.

15 Thank you very much.

16 MR. SANTANA: Okay. My name is Eliseo
17 Santana. Represent several organizations, Puerto
18 Rico Connect, LULAC, which is the League of United
19 Latin American Citizens, the Consul in Pinellas.
20 I'm also the Vice President of the League of Women
21 Voters for north Pinellas County. It's amazing,
22 but I'm a father of four, a grandfather of 13, 12
23 girls and one boy. And so a grandfather of 12
24 girls, what does he do? He joins the League of
25 Women Voters and, hence, I'm the vice president of

1 the organization.

2 I've been, as I said before, living in
3 Pinellas County in Florida since 1980, almost 40
4 years now, after four years of being in the Army.
5 Florida is my home. It is where all of my children
6 and all of my grandchildren have been born and
7 where they live. They all live within walking
8 distance of my home.

9 I'm in a fixed income, simply because I
10 retired six years ago, a little bit over six years
11 ago. I retired from the sheriff department,
12 Pinellas County Sheriff Department, with 31 years
13 of service. So I own my own home, an
14 1,100-square-foot home, and my electric bill is
15 about \$300 now. It's been steadily creeping up. I
16 suspect that the insulation in the house is
17 deteriorating, the age of the air conditioning,
18 it's also getting older.

19 So because I'm in a fixed income, every single
20 dollar that I pay is one less dollar that I have to
21 be able to spend on other needs that I have. I
22 called up Duke Energy, my local provider, and asked
23 for a energy evaluation, which I thought was a
24 standard request. Back in 1980, when I first
25 bought my first home in Pinellas County, it was an

1 older home and I called the service provider,
2 electrical service provider, and they came and did
3 a complete energy evaluation on my home. They
4 pressurized it, saw where the leaks were, they
5 looked at the ducts to make sure there was no
6 leaks. They looked at the insulation. They looked
7 at -- and all these things and they came back and
8 give me recommendations as to how to save the
9 wattage usage. And if I opted to do -- increase my
10 insulation of the attic, that was a requirement,
11 they even had a substantial discount that would be
12 applied if I used the company that they had
13 selected. Same thing with the windows. And I
14 opted for many of these and had a reduced amount of
15 electricity usage.

16 So back again, I called Duke Energy, my
17 current provider, and they said there was no such
18 program available that I could hire somebody to
19 come in and evaluate the energy usage of my home.
20 I called the insulating company who looked at my
21 attic, which I suspected was in need of more, and
22 they did. They said it was under the current
23 standard and it would require something of \$750 to
24 improve. Now, \$750 I can easily get back in a year
25 with the savings of having it installed, but I'm in

1 a fixed income and \$750 is a substantial amount
2 that I would have to spend right off the bat and
3 that will reduce my ability to be comfortable and
4 to provide for other things that I need. So I have
5 not put in the insulation, but yet the need is
6 there.

7 I recently discovered that they were putting
8 in for hundreds of millions of dollars -- the
9 utility companies in Florida -- to increase the
10 amount of power generation that was available, that
11 was needed in Florida, but yet they were not
12 spending a dime on reducing the need for people
13 like myself, to use electricity. And it seems to
14 me that for a fraction of that money, they can
15 spend some kind of program that will allow someone
16 like me to reduce my electrical needs, thereby
17 reduce the need for power generation to be built
18 and to be maintained, a significant reduction in
19 overhead as a state in the generation of power and
20 a great increase and the comfort level and the
21 economics of myself, because for every dollar that
22 I do not spend giving it away to a company that's
23 going to be taking it out of the state, I can use
24 it to buy groceries, to buy clothing, to buy the
25 needs that I have locally, and that in turn gives

1 more money to a local company who then hires people
2 who gets -- the stimulation of the economics is
3 tremendous that occurs and we're lacking. A small
4 of amount of investment can lead to a great
5 increase in lifestyle and the quality of life in
6 Florida.

7 Secondary -- well, the other issue that I
8 have. I'm a veteran and I have spent my life
9 ensuring that our country is standing on two solid
10 feet, that our national defense is taken care of,
11 not just for me, but for my children and my
12 grandchildren and those that come after. And it
13 appears to me that when we are reliant on a fuel
14 source that is external to Florida, that we're
15 putting the national defense at jeopardy.

16 I remember in the 1980's with the embargo, the
17 Iranian embargo and the issues that we had, and we
18 have not learned. It is important for our national
19 security that we reduce our dependence on fuel,
20 particularly that that comes from outside the
21 country, but even that that is inside. We need to
22 spend our money to make sure that each and every
23 home, my home, generates as much energy as it can
24 by having solar panels, windmills, whatever is
25 needed, to locally provide that energy that I need,

1 because it's essential for our national security.
2 It's essential for the well-being of our community.
3 It is essential for the State of Florida. Help us.

4 Finally, I am extremely upset that a
5 Commission that is a Public Service Commission that
6 is designed to ensure that I, as a citizen, that
7 the people of Florida have, that energy needs are
8 met, are not hearing me speak what my needs are.
9 That is un-American and needs to change. Remember,
10 you're here to provide a service for us citizens,
11 not a service for those individuals that are
12 providing the energy generation. My eyes are on
13 you. Thank you.

14 (Discussion off the record.)

15 MS. KEMP: My name is Janel Kemp and I stand
16 here as a life-long resident of the Sunshine State
17 and I currently live in Miami. I'm here with the
18 New Florida Majority and I'm here to join voices
19 with Florida residents and other organizations that
20 believe it's necessary to have clean energy for the
21 future of our state during this pivotal time of
22 transition.

23 As we know, the new plan of action is to cut
24 energy savings goals of 2014, pulling energy
25 efficiency back by 99.9 percent. These rollbacks

1 on energy efficiency will have the most adverse
2 affects on low-income communities, as they're the
3 ones that are paying the most for their energy.

4 According to Yale Environment 360, one-third
5 of U.S. households struggle to afford their energy
6 bills. Personally, I've seen this effect in the
7 lives of close friends and family members through
8 my life. My mother is a school teacher in
9 Miami-Dade School System since 2001 and through the
10 years she's seen students come in through her
11 classrooms with families that have struggled to
12 make ends meet and it's not uncommon for a student
13 to her that they were unable to complete their
14 homework or study for a test because the night
15 before the energy had been turned off.

16 So the area my mom teaches in is not even
17 known to be low-income, which goes to show the
18 widespread effects of energy burdens that alludes
19 to the more common struggles that actually -- that
20 actual low-income communities face.

21 In places like Tallahassee, the losses of
22 fundamental resources can become dangerous to
23 families in the hot times of summer and the cold
24 winter months. Cleanenergy.org says that if
25 efficiency rates 2014 are to be slashed, that this

1 could mean 6.2 million families are losing access
2 to energy efficiency program that help save money
3 and reduce pollution. These programs are most
4 needed by minorities for a few important reasons.
5 One, the programs help create safer and
6 more-efficient homes for those who can't afford to
7 replace their appliances and cause the higher costs
8 of energy rates in the first place. The second
9 reason being it improves environmental conditions
10 that minorities are most susceptible to.

11 Also, as a renter in Tallahassee, I find it's
12 hard to improve on energy efficiency due to lack of
13 control we have over the appliances that are
14 previously -- that were previously installed in our
15 units. Because of these -- these complexes can
16 benefit from -- I'm sorry -- businesses like these
17 complexes can benefit from incentivized programs,
18 as well, and have the potential to affect thousands
19 of residents. Yet, these same programs are in
20 danger of being cut.

21 These are the changes that are necessary if we
22 are to make the important strides toward
23 eliminating greenhouse gases that are creating the
24 polluted air and mainly affect -- and polluted air
25 that is mainly affecting the health of minority

1 communities and causing coastal cities like Miami
2 and others to flood.

3 Not to mention the money that it would save
4 renters could go to basic needs like food, clothing
5 and better quality of life in general. I would
6 like to reiterate the urgency of the PSC and have
7 stronger energy efficiency and solar goals. The
8 residents of our state have a genuine concern and
9 interest in creating more energy efficient
10 lifestyle so that we can have -- give a brighter
11 future to our next generation and would love the
12 help of our providers at accomplishing this goal.
13 We want to know if you will use your power to help
14 generate this vision in Florida.

15 MR. MARCELIN: Hello. My name is MacKenzie
16 Marcelin. I'm a current resident of Miami, Florida
17 and currently working for New Florida Majority as
18 its climate justice organizer. Our organization
19 focused on bring political power to communities of
20 color in the State of Florida and empowering those
21 communities.

22 Growing up, I lived all over Florida and I
23 remember FPL bills coming in the mail as early as I
24 can remember. My mother raising three children on
25 her own, there were times growing up that she had

1 to choose between paying the high electricity bill
2 or paying for other essential expenses. So this
3 experience is not mine alone. Many Floridians are
4 having to pay large portions of their income to
5 rent and utilities and having nothing left. People
6 are having to choose between electricity bills or
7 food and medication. We have the ability to
8 produce technology for efficient and clean energy
9 that could change the lives of families across
10 Florida. We can lower costs. We can have cleaner
11 air. We can make these changes. And at this
12 point, we are allowing these families to live in
13 these conditions.

14 It's time for the Public Service Commission to
15 remember who and why these serve. Each person on
16 that Commission must know that they are beholden to
17 the public and no one else. Yet, they do a
18 disservice to Florida consumers when they ease the
19 responsibilities of these billion-dollar companies.
20 They do a disservice to the public when our voices
21 aren't allowed to be heard at this hearing. They
22 do a disservice when low-income families and
23 communities of color pay nearly three times more in
24 their energy bills and are more likely to face
25 pollution from these companies' output of dirty

1 fossil fuels -- of fossil fuel energy.

2 The PSC is essentially allowing low-income
3 families and communities of color to overpay for
4 their own demise. This is why we need to set
5 higher energy efficiency goals and transition to
6 cleaner energy so we can protect our communities
7 and the most vulnerable.

8 The climate crisis is happening now and we
9 need to act now. The PSC need to realize that they
10 serve and represent the best interest of Florida
11 residents and not Duke Energy and certainly not
12 FPL. If the PSC were to approve of the laughable
13 goals of these utility companies, they would lower
14 an already-small benchmark from these large utility
15 companies and essentially sanction the burden that
16 is placed on the back of these front-line
17 communities.

18 There is a theft going on in Florida. FPL,
19 other companies like them, are robbing Florida
20 residents of our money, health and environment
21 around them. This is why we need to do something
22 about it. This is why we need to have lower
23 efficiency goals -- or better efficiency goals and,
24 again, protect our communities.

25 MS. VARGAS: I have four items to discuss.

1 Okay. And I'm just going to read them. The first
2 item is affordability. Florida incomes have been
3 flat for the last 12 years and have hovered at
4 around \$60,000 per household. It is much less per
5 capita and for senior citizens who average about
6 \$1,440 a month in Social Security benefits. Many
7 retirees pay almost 10 percent of their monthly
8 income toward utility costs. Florida's electric
9 bills average \$126 a month, while the national
10 average is \$111.37 cents a month. Where I live,
11 which is Pasco County, incomes below -- incomes are
12 below the poverty level for 15.9 percent of the
13 population as of 2017. In some areas in Dade City,
14 the Hispanic population is 53 percent below poverty
15 level. While 71 percent of Pasco County residents
16 are homeowners, property values are still
17 recovering or are under water from the 2008
18 recession so there's no easy escape for them from
19 their housing cost dilemma, other than taking a big
20 loss, going into foreclosure or going into
21 bankruptcy.

22 This is what's happening to my next door
23 neighbor whose utility bills are over \$300 a month.
24 He is retired, currently in pre-foreclosure and
25 closing -- and losing his home, and you can check

1 Zillow for that. You know, he's my next door
2 neighbor. So you'd find my address, his address
3 next to mine. Meanwhile, during the same period,
4 utility companies have made a lot of profits and
5 profits at Duke Energy have nearly doubled to over
6 2.4 billion dollars.

7 The second thing is the use of renewable
8 energy resources. Duke Energy currently has only
9 1.7 percent of its electricity produced through
10 renewable resources. There is no solar rebate
11 assistance program in Florida at the present time
12 and my cost to go solar, which I investigated
13 recently for 1,500-square-foot home, is in excess
14 of \$17,000.

15 Of the resources that Duke Energy uses,
16 37 percent are sourced from gas. Gas is highly
17 toxic and my community specifically has a 1.5
18 greater rate than other populations in terms of
19 asthma from pollutant environments.

20 Per 1,500 peer-reviewed scientific studies,
21 all scientists agree that gas is harmful to people
22 and the environment and is -- let me see -- it's
23 something like 84 times a greater environmental
24 toxin than anything, than CO2, for example.

25 Okay. The UN goal is to keep global warming

1 levels to an increase of 1.5 degrees by 2030 to
2 avoid catastrophic global warming, rising seas,
3 increased extreme weather and flooding. If present
4 warming trends continue, we stand to lose billions
5 of dollars of Florida coastal properties and
6 businesses according to National Geographic,
7 September 2016 or '17 issue.

8 My recommendations, Florida's present energy
9 policies are virtually toothless and lacking
10 specific authority to regulate utility companies.
11 The buck has effectively been passed to an
12 appointed utilities commission that is not directly
13 accountable to the people. Thirty-eight states in
14 the union have adopted standard renewable energy --
15 renewable energy policies for utility companies
16 with specific goals and definite compliance
17 standards as mandated by state law, despite great
18 environmental hazards. Florida is not one of those
19 states. The Commission should recommend such
20 policies for the State of Florida and recommend
21 that the legislature pass renewable energy
22 legislation subject to transparency,
23 accountability, and public oversight.

24 MR. SAPORTAS: My name is Joseph Saportas and
25 I'm a current resident of Clearwater, Florida. I

1 formerly lived in North Reddington Beach, Florida,
2 owning a home since 1982, Duke Energy, formerly FPL
3 as my provider of energy in the area.

4 I'm a native Floridian, originally from
5 Jacksonville. My family actually moved in to
6 Florida in the 1940's. Currently I'm a member of
7 the following organizations: President of the
8 Pinellas County Democratic Hispanic Caucus, board
9 member and sergeant in arms of the Pinellas
10 Democratic Party, Deputy Director for Elderly with
11 LULAC Florida, currently also president of Saportas
12 Insurance and also a sales manager/consultant for
13 SkyBeam Technologies, which is an LED technology
14 company.

15 Today I'm here because as a native Floridian,
16 an active private citizen, to urge the Public
17 Service Commission to demand strong goals for
18 energy efficiency and solar. In fact, solar is
19 clean, safe, does not result in destruction of our
20 environment, as do fossil fuel generation. I
21 currently consult in not only insurance, but
22 technology, which ties into energy efficiency. In
23 representing the elderly, including myself, Florida
24 has the most sunshine of any state, but lags the
25 nation in solar energy generation. Energy

1 efficiency means that Floridians save money. There
2 is no excuse for our lack of higher energy
3 efficiency.

4 As a native Floridian, I remember when our
5 Public Service Commission was elected, mostly on
6 saving money on services and energy for the
7 consumer. Since you are appointed, you should
8 strive to save money for our consumers.

9 It's common knowledge that low-income
10 families, Latino, Afro-Americans and the elderly
11 struggle and pay some of the higher costs for their
12 energy usage. We as Floridians and you as the
13 Public Service Commission need to take positive
14 action to help higher efficiency standards help
15 everyone. Having extra money from energy savings
16 allows the elderly on fixed incomes to pay for
17 food, for drugs, other needs, as well as those with
18 lower income to provide more for their children,
19 their education and their supplies for school.

20 In closing, I wish to reiterate my support for
21 the Public Service Commission enacting higher
22 energy efficiency standards for our energy
23 providers in requiring more solar and higher energy
24 efficiency when possible. Thank you for your time.

25 (Whereupon, the following statement provided

1 through Tania Sadler, English-Spanish interpreter.)

2 MS. RUIZ: My name is Maria Victoria Ruiz.

3 I'm Columbian and a citizen of the United States.

4 My utility company is TECO. I've lived in the

5 United States for 15 years. I am divorced and I

6 live alone. I am a member of the organization,

7 LULAC, and we have as our mission to help Hispanics

8 in the United States.

9 I am here making -- giving this statement as

10 an opportunity to request that the Public Service

11 Commission guarantee that there be solid objectives

12 for energy efficiency and solar energy. For me,

13 energy efficiency represents a lot of progress and

14 development for our country in every sense.

15 I would like for more efficient goals to be

16 established as far as energy and electricity so

17 that low-income consumers, the retired, head of

18 households, et cetera, for whom these services are

19 very expensive. We must protect the environment

20 against damage. We are requesting that these

21 public service companies offer better service to

22 the community of Florida.

23 We're searching for solutions to protect the

24 health of the population, the air, and the air that

25 we breath, for the wildlife and for the wildlife in

1 the State of Florida. I propose that education
2 campaigns from the companies be provided for the
3 protection of the environment, that the companies
4 offer better prices and excellent services in
5 Florida, campaigns for the protection of the
6 health, because Florida is our life, it is our
7 home.

8 We need clean water in Florida without
9 chemicals nor containments. We need energy without
10 contaminating other aspects of our life and our
11 health. Energy could be provided through solar
12 panels or hydroelectric energy, as is done in
13 third-world countries, like they do in South
14 America.

15 The utility companies should focus on
16 protecting the waters, the wildlife and what is
17 most important, those of us who live and love the
18 State of Florida.

19 The consumers, we would feel much better with
20 changes so that we can receive these utilities,
21 utilities that are clean and pure, not
22 contaminated.

23 I would like to say thank you for listening to
24 my proposals. We will all be much happier with the
25 utilities in Florida and we could be an example to

1 other states. Thank you.

2 MS. DIPBOYE: My name is Mary Dipboye and I
3 live in Winter Park, Florida with my husband,
4 Robert, and we are both retired. We have lived in
5 our home for nine years. We moved here when my
6 husband took a job at UCF and we decided to stay
7 when he retired. Florida is a beautiful state and
8 we love it here.

9 In 2014, I heard that the Public Service
10 Commission had dropped solar rebate requirements,
11 plus they had gutted energy conservation and energy
12 efficiency goals for the state's electric
13 utilities. I was stunned and angry. I thought
14 that the state policy was taking -- I thought that
15 the Public Service Commission was taking the
16 Sunshine State in exactly the wrong direction. I
17 had no idea that I could do anything to push back.
18 And then one day the answer appeared.

19 I was driving home and heard a story on the
20 local NPR radio station in Orlando, which is WMFE.
21 The story that I heard was about a woman in
22 Washington, D.C. who started a solar cooperative
23 with her neighbors in 2007. By working together in
24 a group, her neighbors had learned about solar PV
25 and then found a solar installer to put solar

1 arrays on their individual townhomes. By working
2 together neighbors have empowered themselves and
3 acquired solar at a competitive price.
4 Furthermore, the co-op movement was still going
5 strong in D.C. and had spread to three neighboring
6 states.

7 I had a driveway moment and thought. This is
8 what Florida needs. I called the woman in D.C. and
9 we began the conversation that lead to launching
10 the first solar cooperative in Florida in May 2015.
11 Now, the program is overseen by two incredible
12 non-profits, the League of Women Voters of Florida
13 and Solar United Neighbors of Florida. The 51st
14 co-op will launch this month. To date, over 1,400
15 homeowners have installed 30 million dollars of
16 solar PV arrays on their homes. In the past year,
17 I've served as the co-chair of the League of Women
18 Voters of Florida Solar Campaign.

19 During the past four years as I volunteered to
20 spread the benefits of solar around the state,
21 here's what I have learned:

22 One, Floridians want more clean energy sources
23 feeding the grid in their state, all income levels,
24 all political sides, they want this. They
25 understand that fossil fuels are bad for their

1 health and bad for the environment.

2 Two, many low-income wage earners live in
3 housing that does not use energy efficiently. As a
4 result, they sometimes receive high bills, which
5 they struggle to pay.

6 Three, in Orlando the median income of wage
7 earners is so low that the city ranks dead last out
8 of the nation's 50 largest cities.

9 And, four, many homeowners would like to
10 purchase solar arrays for their homes, although --
11 and although the solar co-ops have brought the
12 price of solar within the reach of moderate-income
13 Floridians, low-income wage earners remain priced
14 out of the market.

15 So here's the bottom line. Energy efficiency
16 and energy conservation programs will help
17 low-income wage earners to reduce their electric
18 bills. And, furthermore, all Floridians will
19 benefit when electrical generation is reduced
20 because of the vast majority is sourced today from
21 dirty fuels.

22 Public Service Commissioners, it's time to
23 stand up Floridians and stand up for the
24 environment.

25 MR. MEYER: So my name is Russell Meyer. I've

1 been a pastor in Florida for 25 years. I want to
2 tell you about a time when a mother came into
3 office just sobbing. Her baby was in the stroller.
4 They had come from the pediatrician. The
5 doctor had ordered ointment and air conditioning
6 for a very serious skin rash to keep the baby out
7 of the hospital, but their electricity had been
8 turned off, two months past due. Could I help?
9 Yes, of course, I could help, and the congregation
10 paid the power bill, and she was forever grateful.

11 Over the years, I've helped more people with
12 electric bills than rent payments. One of three
13 Floridians hover around minimum wage. One of two
14 households have no reserves for an emergency
15 expense. For many renters, the power bill keeps
16 them in poverty. That mother lived in a run-down
17 apartment with a window air conditioner and no
18 insulation. She cooled the outdoors, as well as
19 her apartment.

20 Landlords have little incentive for energy
21 efficiency and the poorest of the poor overpay what
22 the rest of us do. My house at three times the
23 size of that mother's apartment had half the
24 electricity bill. The Uber driver who picked me up
25 to bring me here today asked me why I was here and

1 I told him. He told me he once worked for the
2 local utility as a customer rep. He spent his
3 whole day helping people extend payments on their
4 bills and then would then tell which churches would
5 help them, as well.

6 Floridians need clean and efficient energy.
7 The technology is there. We lack the policies to
8 make rental energy efficient and the grid clean,
9 and that's important, too. The ill health, asthma
10 and cancer and diabetes that is found in the
11 shadows of the coal and gas plants in this state
12 fall on where the poor live. So they pay high
13 rates, unnecessary rates and they get sick from the
14 energy that they get.

15 Renters and faith communities bear the brunt
16 of energy inefficiency in this state and that is
17 wrong. It's immoral for utilities to tell people
18 to ask churches to pay their bills rather than
19 incentivize landlords to put in insulation.

20 Public utilities are taking advantage of the
21 least among us. They need a conscience and that's
22 what energy efficiency goals are.

23 Jesus teaches that God's will is for justice
24 to listen to the adverse experience of those who
25 suffer in equity and to alleviate the conditions

1 that cause that suffering. Wall Street will always
2 favor investors. The Public Service Commission
3 doesn't have to worry about them. Your job is to
4 serve the public. All Floridians deserve clean and
5 efficient energy, everyone including renters. It's
6 technologically possible to deliver it. We need
7 the policies to make it happen. I pray that you
8 are all successful in serving the public, the
9 children of Florida need that from you.

10 MR. BLADT: My name is Bill Bladt and I live
11 in Oldsmar, Florida and my utility company is TECO
12 and I've lived in Florida for the past five years.
13 And I'm a father and husband and I live with my
14 wife, Carmen.

15 I'm here together with the group of LULAC,
16 L-U-L-A-C. And some positions I had, I was a
17 volunteer with an organization in my town called
18 Oldsmar Cares, it's a 501C, and it is dedicated on
19 helping needy people in my area. It has a food
20 pantry and clothing pantry for needy people. It
21 helps with utility payments, which is hard for
22 people to pay, and also housing.

23 The reason I'm here is today to take
24 opportunity to urge the Public Service Commission
25 to ensure that there are strong goals for energy

1 efficiency and solar power. Energy efficiency
2 means to me living clean.

3 My power company is TECO and my most-recent
4 power bill is \$201.88 for August 21st billing. I'm
5 a retiree on a fixed income and energy efficiency
6 programs will help lower my cost to ensure I'm able
7 to keep my money to pay for high credit card debt I
8 have and the taxes that I have trouble paying with.

9 In closing, I reiterate my support for the PSC
10 enacting strong energy efficiency and solar goals.
11 My goal is to see near-zero energy pollution within
12 the next 20 years.

13 MS. MOBLEY: My name is Val Mobley. I live in
14 Orlando and my utility company is OUC, a
15 customer-owned utility. Meaning that I am an owner
16 of this utility along with all the citizens of the
17 City of Orlando. My husband and I are retired and
18 live in a small 1,000-square-foot house. We have
19 taken the necessary steps over the years to
20 strengthen the house to conserve electricity. New
21 windows, exterior doors, extra insulation in the
22 attic, weather stripping around the doors. These
23 measures have reduced our electric consumption to
24 an average of less than \$100 per month.

25 Last year we added solar panels to the roof.

1 We did this not because our bills were so high we
2 could not afford them, but because it was the right
3 thing to do. Using the energy of the sun to power
4 our home instead of burning fossil fuels is the
5 right thing, as well as the smart thing. We were
6 able to pay for the solar panels up front, but many
7 people are not able to do that. I believe it is
8 the duty of the utility companies in this state to
9 set strong energy efficiency goals, as well as
10 establish strong solar incentives to help the
11 average person to lower their bills.

12 There are many renters that have no control
13 over the leaking windows and doors or lack of
14 insulation in their units that are paying too high
15 a utility bill monthly. There are too many
16 landlords who do not care how much electricity the
17 renters are using because they are not paying the
18 bills so they don't do anything about making their
19 properties energy efficient. These are the
20 customers that the utilities should be thinking
21 about when they set policies for energy efficiency
22 for the next ten years. These low-income
23 individuals who have to decide whether to pay the
24 utility bill or eat next week or buy their medicine
25 for the month, these are the decisions that people

1 should not have to make.

2 You, the PSC, have the power to make sure that
3 the less fortunate in our communities get a fair
4 shake by requiring the power companies to set
5 realistic goals with the majority of their
6 customers in mind. The majority in Florida are the
7 average workers, not the millionaires. Do the
8 right thing.

9 MR. MOBLEY: My name is Leonard Mobley. I
10 live in Orlando, Florida, lifetime resident of
11 there. I saw the Orlando Utilities Commission, who
12 provides most of our power, build a plant in north
13 Orlando, oil-fired plant. And then I saw them tear
14 it down several years later when they built the
15 Curtis Stanton Coal-Fired Plant in south Orange
16 County. Neither were energy efficient. Energy
17 efficiency wasn't a term used in those days,
18 probably the '50s and '60s. And I have seen the
19 Walt Disney World build a solar plant on 270 acres
20 of their property and now that provides a fourth of
21 all their power they need to run their resort. The
22 City of Orlando has committed to have all of its
23 facilities run on renewable by 2050. These two
24 entities are very able to do this because they have
25 the money and the means.

1 Florida is a leader in the solar energy, but
2 very deficient in its energy efficiency. The
3 people that live on a fixed income or at or near
4 the poverty level are the most-affected by the
5 high-energy bills. These people need some
6 incentive to maybe make some changes and be more
7 energy efficient. And if the utility companies can
8 be more energy efficient, they can pass their
9 savings on to these people.

10 Requiring the utility companies to get off of
11 fossil fuels and onto renewable energy is a must.
12 It's better for the planet, better for the economy
13 and it creates thousands of jobs, and it is the
14 right thing to do. But in the meantime, the PSC
15 must require the utility companies to be more
16 energy efficient themselves, and this can be done.
17 OUC has started creating some solar farms on their
18 property, but they need to have more incentive
19 from -- more impetus from the PSC to do more.

20 MS. CLERMONT: My name is Asia Clermont and my
21 utility company is Duke Energy. I have lived in
22 Florida for 13 years now. I am married and live
23 with my husband and children in Largo, Florida. I
24 am a member of LULAC and I am currently serving as
25 VP of Council 7069 of LULAC Pinellas, and I am here

1 today because I want to take this opportunity to
2 urge the Public Service Commission to ensure that
3 there are strong goals for energy efficiency and
4 solar. The energy efficiency program will help not
5 only to create a budget, but also will promote
6 clean energy, to aid the communities to allocate
7 their savings for other necessities as food,
8 medication, school supplies, college education, and
9 for them not to be caught up in the middle of the
10 juggle game.

11 And I say the juggle game because it's
12 unnecessary. I have paid and learned that game I
13 had to learn when I first moved to Florida. As a
14 single mom with a seven-year-old, our first
15 decision was to have safety and it was to get a
16 safe community to live in because we were new to
17 the state -- safe housing where me and my daughter
18 were not threatened by any outsiders. And that we
19 have to pay high cost to be in a gated community.
20 And with that -- until that, even though I came
21 with a good job, I had to play that game to juggle
22 things around and there were many times that the
23 electricity, because it was too high, we were
24 paying like an average of 350 a month in a
25 two-bedroom apartment, and we had -- I was forced

1 to play this game, juggling what I'm going to pay
2 first this month and what can last me a couple more
3 days until I get paid the next week -- the next two
4 weeks.

5 And with that, unfortunately, my daughter had
6 to experience that our electricity was cut off.
7 Imagine that you have to look at your child,
8 seven-year-old, that mommy comes home, we now
9 lighting a candle when it's not storm outside and
10 what you going to tell a child that doesn't
11 understand. Hey, we're playing a game, or we have
12 grounded the utilities because it didn't do want
13 momma asked them to do.

14 So you're faced to put it in a perspective of
15 a child, not to hurt that child, that I don't have,
16 as your mom, the means to provide for you. That is
17 a tough situation that I think no family should be
18 put in the position of just because we don't
19 have -- we have to play the juggling game.

20 And that is the reason why I'm here today,
21 because I want the Public Service Commission to
22 know they represent the public, and it's not a
23 reason why we're not able to speak with them
24 face-to-face, and they can hear our voices. And if
25 this is the way for them to know how we think,

1 because they representing us, they need to know
2 what the community feels and what the struggles
3 we're facing, real issues that -- real stories that
4 are close to us that we will make it home to them.
5 We're appealing today for them to reconsider and
6 allow us to exercise our human right of clean air,
7 healthy lives.

8 And, with that, it's a win-win situation,
9 because not only will we contribute to have a
10 healthy habitat for the animals and environment, it
11 will be consciously response for it, but also will
12 help us to have those family to allocate their
13 money, not to play the juggle game to the things
14 that matter most. Education. Medications are very
15 expensive today, needless to say.

16 So all those things that we have to suffer
17 that is not a need for when they can help, a little
18 bit of help here and there, and it's not only --
19 interestingly enough one thing that really bothers
20 me or is really close to my heart is that this is
21 not just affecting the civilian lives. I was
22 reading an article at the Seasonedwives.com, which
23 is wives for military members, and they're saying
24 that across the country on military bases that
25 families, more families from two adult or maybe one

1 child, they are facing the high electricity bill
2 and they are under that program of preservation and
3 they have average of 3 -- \$400 a month and they
4 also are facing hardship. So, to me, it's no need
5 that the military family, as well as us, are facing
6 hardship when they're giving their lives for the
7 freedom that we are having today.

8 So I think that we have to reconsider and look
9 at this, that it's not just affecting those. How
10 you going to -- how is a soldier going to have a
11 mind free knowing that back home their family are
12 not really taken care of? The country that they're
13 fighting for out there doesn't even care about how
14 the family are passing through. It's enough that
15 they are putting their life in the line for their
16 family to have a better future. And what are we
17 doing on the other hand? We're just making them
18 suffer, as well as we suffering as a community.

19 So today is for them to know that this is not
20 just something that is happening just Florida, or
21 the poor or low-income family. This is something
22 that is affecting everybody. Although we're not
23 able to fix everybody, but at least as a Floridian
24 today we're taking one step in following the
25 example of North Carolina, that they also organize

1 to have this, their voice to be heard.

2 So today I'm hoping that the Public
3 Commission, they take that into consideration and
4 we become more responsible and hold the companies
5 accountable for what constitutionally they would
6 mandate it to provide. We're not asking for
7 something that it was not in place. We're asking
8 for that that was in place, looking for the health
9 of the community to be actually manifested and
10 exercised, that we can have the benefit of what was
11 already given to us constitutionally by right.

12 MR. SCHUCKER: My name is Wayne Schucker. I
13 have lived in Hillsborough County, Florida for 25
14 years, the past 18 years in a little two-bedroom
15 concrete block house built in 1946. Since the
16 death of my late long-term girlfriend from stroke,
17 I have lived alone. I am a retired civil and
18 environmental engineer and a retired math teacher.
19 I served in the U.S. Army from 1964 to '70. I've
20 been a husband, father, grandfather,
21 great-grandfather and caregiver for a disabled
22 mother, father, daughter and long-time girlfriend.

23 I have worked for federal, state and local
24 government agencies, private engineering and
25 construction firms and Habitat for Humanity. I was

1 a deacon and elder in the United Presbyterian
2 Church. I have long been active with the Society
3 of Friends, the Quakers, and have been involved for
4 years with various Quakers, social justice and
5 environmental justice groups.

6 I was a member of Clergy and Laity Concern for
7 Peace and Justice, an organization which worked to
8 improve living and working conditions and promote
9 civil rights for low-income persons of all ethnic
10 backgrounds and I served two years as co-chairman
11 of the Atlanta chapter of that organization.

12 I was a long-term member of the American
13 Society of Civil Engineers and was an active member
14 and officer in a number of other technical
15 societies involved with planning and implementing
16 clean energy and environmental protection.

17 As project manager for the Savannah, Georgia
18 local Habitat for Humanity affiliate, I work with
19 members of low-income families and volunteers to
20 build energy efficient affordable homes.

21 I am a member of Organize Florida, a
22 non-profit organization, and work with their staff
23 members and other volunteers to promote voter
24 registration and civic action to improve
25 healthcare, protect the public waters, provide

1 adequate drainage of storm waters, prevent
2 flooding, decrease air pollution, and increase the
3 supply of adequate energy-efficient housing for
4 low-income families and stop the environmentally
5 destructive effects of climate change and global
6 warming.

7 My 15 grandchildren have spent all -- 12 of my
8 15 grandchildren have spent all or a major portion
9 of their lives in Florida and maintain strong ties.
10 The parents of the three who live far away met at
11 Horseshoe Beach on Florida's gulf and their
12 children stay in contact with the Florida family
13 members. All of my great-grandchildren live in
14 Florida.

15 I am here today because the Florida Energy
16 Conservation Act requires that members of the
17 Public Service Commission set energy savings
18 targets every five years. I believe that by
19 increasing efforts to make homes of low-income
20 residents of Florida more energy efficient, their
21 energy bills could be greatly reduced, leaving them
22 more disposable income for better food, medical
23 care and educational expenses for their children.

24 I believe that by rapidly shifting production
25 of electricity from the burning of coal and gas to

1 the use of solar and other renewable energy
2 resources, the electric utility companies could
3 free up large amounts of money now being spent for
4 purchasing and transporting coal and gas from other
5 regions and this would allow more money to be spent
6 on meeting the needs of Florida's people.

7 I believe that we could prevent pollution of
8 our air and water from the frequent leaks of gas
9 from interstate pipelines and the pollution
10 resulting from long-distance rail transport of
11 coal, keeping our air cleaner and slowing global
12 warming and climate change. This would be, reduce
13 the high rate of asthma, cancer, COPD, heart
14 disease and stroke, which we now see in
15 Hillsborough County.

16 I believe that this is a major responsibility
17 of the people who are appointed to the Public
18 Service Commission. It is time for Florida utility
19 companies to adopt 21st-century solutions to our
20 serious energy and climate health problems.

21 MR. ROGRIGUEZ: My name is Julio Rodriguez.
22 I'm from Tampa. This is personal to me because of
23 TECO wanting to build more coal-burning plants and
24 the fracking of Tampa Bay, too. It disturbs me
25 when Florida Power and Light can build one of the

1 largest solar farms in Parish, which is right
2 across the state line -- or the county line from
3 Hillsborough County and Manatee County, and TECO
4 says they can't do that in Hillsborough County. So
5 I just -- I don't think we really need more
6 coal-burning plants. I think we should have more,
7 like, solar and more energy efficiency than
8 building more coal.

9 I guess that's it. Like I said, it's personal
10 to me because it's happening in my own backyard and
11 I've lived in Tampa since I was six years old and
12 it's, like, my home. So Tampa Bay has been on the
13 brink before and we brought it back because of
14 activists and people, and now they want to ruin it
15 again, so.

16 Okay. Thank you.

17 MR. HAYS: Hello, my name is Ken Hays. I'm a
18 resident of Tallahassee and I've lived in Florida
19 for all of my 67 years. I am a retiree and a
20 member of Rethink Energy Florida. I'm here today
21 to ask the Public Service Commission to expand, not
22 diminish, strong goals for energy efficiency and
23 solar. Sea level rise induced by climate change
24 poses a very serious financial threat to Florida.
25 The Tampa Bay Times recently reported that Florida

1 may need to spend 75 billion sea walls by 2040. So
2 reducing our fossil fuel emissions by expanding
3 strong goals for energy efficiency is common sense.

4 Again, I hope the PSC takes the science and
5 economics of climate change into account and rather
6 than diminishing energy efficiency standards,
7 expands them significantly.

8 MS. BROWN: I am Trish Brown. I live in
9 Tallahassee, Florida and I have been a
10 long-standing resident for 20 years in this city,
11 but homeless now and no longer living at 638 East
12 Park Avenue. My utility company was City of
13 Tallahassee Utilities. I'm a member to many
14 organizations, Leadership Team for Florida People,
15 Poor Peoples Campaign, member of Crime Survivors
16 for Safety and Justice, Tallahassee Community
17 Action Committee, TCAC, and the Dream Defenders,
18 also in alliance with the organizations like New
19 Florida Majority, FLIC, F-L-I-C, We Are Florida and
20 now Earthjustice and so many others.

21 I am a volunteer of the Florida Poor Peoples
22 Advocacy Center, that's the FPAC, which is
23 dedicated to research and analysts with the voice
24 of those affected by specific policy proposals and
25 budget decisions, because informed decisions around

1 problems and solutions is the essence of civic
2 engagement and the democratic process.

3 Florida PAC, or FLPAC, wants to make it easy
4 to make a difference. I had to move because of
5 gentrification. And, honestly, if I could have
6 continued to stay in my apartment, I wouldn't have
7 been able to afford the rent nor the utilities that
8 continue to drain my earnings. Even when I was
9 living at the Mattox-Realty-managed Apartments, I
10 endured much through the winter, refusing to turn
11 on the gas furnace because my utility bill would
12 rise astronomically high, stay bundled in my
13 bedroom to keep warm, and during the summers would
14 not be able to run the AC for the very same,
15 tolerating the heat, my health and bronchitis
16 worsening.

17 I am here today because I want to take this
18 opportunity to urge the Public Service Commission
19 to ensure that there are strong goals for energy
20 efficiency and solar. Energy efficiency to me
21 means a powerful blow to poverty, people impacted
22 being able to save money and feed their children,
23 better health and less trauma, clean fresh air and
24 water.

25 Farming and food security. Our wildlife

1 desperately needs be protected and if we don't do
2 something right now to stop what is happening to
3 our planet, we will not be able to turn back the
4 hands of time on a destruction of our mother earth.
5 And no more corporations and city officials
6 capitalizing and stealing money from the people in
7 our precious communities.

8 This process reminds me of the importance of
9 people raising their voices and standing up to our
10 politicians. I wrote a piece on the ongoing Puerto
11 Rico conflict and I would like to share it with you
12 today.

13 Congratulations to my sisters and brothers in
14 Puerto Rico on their successful protest removing
15 their unfit governor from office, but we must take
16 it one step further -- no more corrupted officials
17 holding office and utilizing funds for their greed
18 and needs.

19 Puerto Rico has shown the world what it takes
20 to stomp out dishonest and unworthy elected
21 officials. The Puerto Rican community world wide
22 came together as one powerful voice and said, no
23 mas, no mas, no, more! This is where we take our
24 stand! This is where we take back our offices and
25 now demand them to take accountability for their

1 crimes. If I steal a piece of bread, I am thrown
2 in jail. When I am released, I continue to be
3 punished and labeled an ex-felon the rest of my
4 life. The rich and powerful steal billions of
5 dollars from children and families, already
6 impacted! And when caught, are allowed to walk
7 away and continue to thrive on money they stole! No
8 more just forcing them to step down and walk away,
9 riches intact. No more slap on the wrist with
10 penalties, fines or being exiled only to continue
11 to enjoy their ill-gotten luxurious lifestyles
12 taken, stolen, from the very people they promised
13 to serve and took an oath to protect.

14 Puerto Rico has spoken. You are a true
15 example of what can be done through unity. Only
16 together can we make the changes that are
17 necessary. With our one collective voice, our
18 elected officials in office will have to listen or
19 be removed from their positions. We must show
20 through non-violent actions that we are here and
21 that we see what the officials are doing and it is
22 not okay.

23 We will not allow, "business as usual," to
24 continue. Our communities matter! Our lives are
25 important to us! Too many elected officials forget

1 too easily that their job is to legislate on our
2 behalf. We must remind them, just as Puerto Rico
3 did, no mas, no mas, no more. Trish Brown.

4 MS. FOOTE: I'm Deborah Foote. I'm the
5 Government Affairs and Political Director with the
6 Sierra Club of Florida and I'm here to share that
7 we had over 275 citizens who signed cards
8 encouraging the Public Service Commission to set
9 minimum targets at one percent of revenue for
10 energy efficiency. Thousands of citizens would
11 benefit from having an incentive to increase energy
12 efficiency. The petition cards we're delivering is
13 just a sample of people who feel passionate about
14 increasing energy efficiency in Florida. In an age
15 where we're experiencing rapid climate change,
16 power companies throughout the state should be
17 doing more to promote greater energy efficiency.
18 But it's not just about reducing fossil fuel
19 consumption. It's also about economic justice.
20 The poorest among us have the largest energy bill
21 as percentage of their income and need relief. The
22 standards which Florida holds utilities today are
23 woefully below the national average, and that
24 reflects how we protect our citizens. We call on
25 the Public Service Commission to set a minimum

1 target of one percent of revenue for energy
2 efficiency initiatives.

3 (Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded at
4 12:17 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF LEON)

I, DANA W. REEVES, Professional Court Reporter, certify that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place therein designated; that my shorthand notes were thereafter translated under my supervision; and the foregoing pages, numbered 2 through 60, are a true and correct record of the aforesaid proceedings.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED this 13th day of August, 2019.



DANA W. REEVES
NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION #FF968527
EXPIRES MARCH 22, 2020