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From: Eskamani, Anna <Anna.Eskamani@myfloridahouse.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 8:52 AM
To: Office of Commissioner Polmann; Office of Commissioner Graham; Office of Chairman Clark;
Office of Commissioner Brown; Office of Commissioner Fay
Cc: Records Clerk
Subject: TYSP & Florida's Risky and Harmful Overreliance on Fossil Fuels
Attachments: Rep. Eskamani Letter to PSC TYSP Filings.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Commissioners,

As you review The Ten-Year Site Plans today provided by utility companies I wanted to once more elevate Florida's risky and harmful overreliance on fossil fuels and the importance of setting energy efficiency goals and renewable energy goals. Please see my attached letter.

With gratitude,

Rep. Eskamani

Representative Anna V. Eskamani
Florida State House District 47
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Pronouns: She/Her/Hers



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Florida House of Representatives

Representative Anna V. Eskamani

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Email: Anna.Eskamani@myfloridahouse.gov

August 18, 2020

RE: Florida's Risky and Harmful Overreliance on Fossil Fuels

Dear Commissioners:

As you review The Ten-Year Site Plans today provided by utility companies, I wanted to once more elevate Florida's risky and harmful overreliance on fossil fuels, and the importance of setting energy efficiency goals and renewable energy goals.

Energy efficiency is a low-cost resource that can help utilities meet electricity demand. It helps utilities reduce their fuel costs and can help them defer or eliminate more expensive and polluting power plants. It also helps customers cut their energy waste and lower their power bills. Yet, Florida ranks near the bottom of state rankings for capturing energy savings from customers from its efficiency programs. **We can and must do better.**

As I have mentioned to you before, the state uses practices in setting its goals that are decades old. These practices were the justification for gutting energy efficiency goals in 2014 and most recently led many of the power companies to propose energy efficiency goals of zero or near zero. These practices penalize efficiency for being effective at helping customers cut energy use. For instance:

- Florida is the only state to continue to rely on a cost-effectiveness test – the Rate Impact Measure (RIM test) – that counts the utility's lost sales from efficiency programs (which is customers reducing their energy use) as a "cost" to the utility. Therefore, if an efficiency measure provides significant energy savings to a family or a business – it is eliminated from the utility's efficiency goals. **Isn't the goal of an efficiency program to help customers reduce energy use?**
- Another way the utilities drive down savings potential is by arbitrarily eliminating low cost, high impact measures that have a simple payback to customers of 2 years or less. Access to these

measures is critically important to families struggling with a high-energy burden, especially during this pandemic.

The economic fallout from the COVID-19 crisis has laid bare the prevalence of high-energy burden in our communities. More than 600,000 customers are behind on power bill payments just in the investor-owned utilities' territories alone. No customer should have to make the choice between paying a power bill and essentials like food and medicine. Electricity is unequivocally a public health matter, and energy efficiency is a win-win for both the customer and the environment.

In order to get meaningful efficiency programs to Florida's families we must modernize the state's practices. You have an opportunity to do just that in the rulemaking docket you've opened to revise your goals setting rule. As part of that rulemaking process you should have scoping workshops so you can collect broad input from the public, stakeholders, and experts that provide best practices from other states -- before revising the rule.

At this critical moment, we ask the Commission to provide leadership and direction for our state to pursue a healthier and more equitable clean energy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'A'.

Representative Anna V. Eskamani
Florida House of Representatives, District 47