

Jacob Veaghn

From: Jacob Veaghn on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2020 12:02 PM
To: 'chris.castro@ideasforus.org'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Good Morning, Chris Castro

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20200000 and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Jacob Veaghn
Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
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850.413.6656

-----Original Message-----

From: chris.castro@everyactioncustom.com <chris.castro@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2020 9:18 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Dear Florida Public Service Commission,

I hope this message finds you well. I am a concerned Florida resident and appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts.

To begin, the middle of a public health and economic crisis is not the time to create more uncertainty by making changes to solar rights that will hurt jobs and take money out of people's pockets and harm an expanding industry driving clean economic development in our State.

In 2019, the Florida Public Service Commission reported that almost 60,000 Floridian households and businesses had gone solar, installing over 507 megawatts. That's just over half a percent of all Florida's electric customers.

Before COVID-19, the Sunshine state produced the 4th most electricity from solar panels in the country, and employed over 12,000 people in 434 homegrown companies. . Before this crisis began, "solar installer" was the fastest-growing job in the country, and our industry employed 250,000 people. The COVID-19 crisis could put half, 125,000, of these jobs at risk in communities across the United States. Florida has already lost 22% of its workforce due to economic uncertainty, and this could get worse.

People and businesses across the state rely on common sense solar policies like retail rate net-energy metering (NEM) to take control of their own energy, and choose how they power their lives. The utility made money on that excess power that was produced on my rooftop with zero-emissions and did not have to produce as much electricity at the powerplant which is extremely wasteful and polluting.

Solar panels and batteries contribute to the resilience of the electric grid. As we enter hurricane season, Floridians need more tools – not less – in order to weather all the storms that are coming our way.

To date, solar projects have contributed \$6.6 billion into the Florida economy. This stands in stark contrast to the \$5 billion Floridians send out of state every year to pay for natural gas imports. Florida's utilities are overreliant on gas. They get 70 percent of all electricity from burning gas - double the national average of around 35 percent. Prioritizing rooftop solar will save customers money on their bills. It will also result in a more diversified electricity mix. This reduces risks of disruption in the gas supply chain, pipelines, and volatile fuel prices.

Please defend solar workers, business owners, and homeowners from additional uncertainty by preserving net metering here in Florida.

Sincerely,
Chris Castro
2502 Montana St Orlando, FL 32803-2165