

Brian Schultz

From: Brian Schultz on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2020 9:01 AM
To: 'timone@bellsouth.net'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Good Morning, Timothy Potter

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

Sincerely,

Brian Schultz
Commission Deputy Clerk II
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
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 the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

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

From: timone@everyactioncustom.com <timone@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2020 2:03 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Dear Florida Public Service Commission,

I made the decision to invest in a solar power system for my home for a lot of reasons. It helps take a load off the utility company who continues to produce energy from fossil fuels, and allows me to produce my own sustainable power. The utility company still provides a valuable service for when the sun isn't shining, so the symbiotic relationship between the consumer and the utility should remain balanced. I also invested in solar because of the return on investment based on the net metering laws. It economically allows me a way to invest in the future with a return on investment that is valuable not only to me but to the entire community as we, as a country, should be transitioning to sustainable power supplies and moving off of pollution producing fossil fuel produced power.

With global climate change come increasing numbers of unstable weather patterns producing a greater number of storms and more powerful hurricanes here in Florida. The utilities have not invested in burying their distribution networks and so with every hurricane there is an inevitable loss of power. Having reliable electrical power is an absolute necessity to life. So providing incentives for the public to invest in more solar just makes good sense. Changing net metering would remove one of those incentives and should therefore not be enacted. In fact, the PSC should be

encouraging the utilities to move all their vulnerable grid systems underground over time so that huge sums of money are not spent every year to repair the system after every storm.

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.

Before COVID-19, the Sunshine state produced the 4th most electricity from solar panels in the country, and employed over 12,000 people. 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 to take control of their own energy, and choose how they power their lives.

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.

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

Sincerely,
Timothy Potter
19 Summer Pl Rockledge, FL 32955-3741