

Brian Schultz

From: Brian Schultz on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 7:59 AM
To: 'bruce@ballister.com'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Good Morning, Bruce Ballister

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: bruce@everyactioncustom.com <bruce@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 4:08 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Dear Florida Public Service Commission,

Gary, you know me from our work in NW Florida. I'm a long-time advocate of DIY and entrepreneurship. Removing locally based Solar Installers, and the supply chain in favor of Utility Owned Only is NOT a good option for either self-sufficiency or our economy. Big is not always better. Any way that we can encourage folks to reduce our overall carbon footprint. If FPL and the other big players want to install Solar, I say great. But that should not infringe on the ability for the homeowner, or small businessman to become more self-reliant.

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.

Sincerely,

Bruce Ballister

6608 Reigh Count Trl Tallahassee, FL 32309-2323