

Jacob Veaughn

From: Jacob Veaughn on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 8:16 AM
To: 'Steve McFarland'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: no power shutoffs in a pandemic!

Good afternoon, Steve McFarland

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20200219-EI and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Jacob Veaughn

Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
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From: Steve McFarland <stephenmcfarland@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 5:25 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: no power shutoffs in a pandemic!

Docket#20200219-EI

Dear Staff and Members of the Public Service Commission:

Thank you for all you do to serve the public of Florida.

It would be a grave *disservice to the people of Florida* for the PSC to permit any Florida utilities to disconnect the power of any Floridians who have fallen behind in their monthly electric bill payments. Our people are hurting economically during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as in every other way. Many have lost jobs and income through no fault of their own. You all know that the big Florida utilities are permitted very healthy profit margins on their asset bases, that their annual profits are in the billions of dollars, and that they can easily absorb payment delays and losses during this pandemic.

You all know that it is simply not right to cut off electricity to struggling Floridians during this difficult time - how would you and your families like to have the power to your own homes arbitrarily shut off? Nor is there any valid economic or policy reason to permit the utilities to take such an extreme and cruel step.

Thank you for doing the right thing and using your emergency rulemaking authority to prohibit Florida utilities from shutting off power for delinquency in bill payments, until such time as this pandemic has abated, the economy has recovered, and Floridians are able to pay their utility bills.

We must swim together through this difficult time, or we will surely sink separately.

With good wishes and gratitude,
Steve McFarland
33610