

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 12:44 PM
To: 'jimihen1@gmail.com'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Good Afternoon, Mr. Hendrix.

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

Thank you!

Toni Hover
Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Phone: (850) 413-6467

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

From: jimihen1@everyactioncustom.com <jimihen1@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 9:50 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Dear Florida Public Service Commission,

One thing we Floridians know is how powerful the sun is. We love it here, and we love to say just how hot it is on any given day. And every time I think about how intense the sun is on those days, I am struck by how obvious using that free energy is as a necessity in this state and what a waste it is that we, as a society, continue to wade in ignorance protecting one fossil fuel industry to spite ourselves moving forward. This fear-based, outdated position is not only ignorant; it's dangerous. We KNOW that fossil fuels cause environmental, political, social, economic and health-related issues. I don't resent the fossil fuel industry, but it is time to embrace ALL modern technologies to increase our own independence from these systems. We MUST look at our society holistically. ANY net gain to the system is a gain for ALL of us. Free energy is not only a boon to the local system, but a lift in economic capacity for all involved.

Amid a public health and economic crisis, it's clear that Florida's electric utilities should be doing a whole lot more to promote rooftop solar - a known job creator that keeps money in families' pockets.

Before COVID-19, "solar installer" was the fastest growing job in the country, and the solar 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. In the Sunshine state, before this crisis began, the solar industry employed over 12,000 Floridians. Now, over 1 million Floridians are unemployed, and Florida has already lost 22% of its workforce.

People and businesses across the state rely on common sense solar policies to take control of their own energy, save money, and choose how they power their lives.

Not only does solar create jobs and save us money, but when paired with batteries, solar panels can contribute to the resilience of the electric grid and provide back-up power in emergencies. As we face another intense hurricane season, Floridians need more tools – not fewer – in order to weather all the storms that are coming our way.

Thank you for defending solar workers, business owners, and residents by protecting our bedrock solar policies here in Florida.

Sincerely,

James Hendrix

9871 Old Patina Way Orlando, FL 32832-5821