

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 12:23 PM
To: 'Claire Stiles'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket#20200219-EI

Good Afternoon, Dr. Stiles.

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20200219, 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

From: Claire Stiles <stilesca@eckerd.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2020 11:37 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Docket#20200219-EI

Docket#20200219-EI

Dear Staff and Members of the Public Service Commission:

Thank you for your service to the public of Florida.

At a time when Floridians have fallen behind in their monthly electric bill payments due to no fault of their own, it would be a grave *disservice to the people of Florida* for the PSC to permit any Florida utilities to disconnect the power of these economically challenging people. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it impossible for them to pay bills on time as jobs have been furloughed or ended and government assistance erratic and unreliable at best. 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.

We 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 are there any valid economic or policy reasons 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 work together through this difficult time and help those most in need.

With good wishes and gratitude, Claire Stiles Voting citizen in Florida

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Claire A. Stiles, Ph.D.
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Pronouns: she/her/hers