

**Jacob Veughn**

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**From:** Jacob Veughn on behalf of Records Clerk  
**Sent:** Friday, October 2, 2020 10:50 AM  
**To:** 'vegasmattaes@hotmail.com'  
**Cc:** Consumer Contact  
**Subject:** RE: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Good afternoon, Matt Harris

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

Jacob Veughn  
Commission Deputy Clerk I  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
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850.413.6656

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

From: vegasmattaes@everyactioncustom.com <vegasmattaes@everyactioncustom.com>  
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2020 9:36 AM  
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>  
Subject: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Dear Florida Public Service Commission,

I became involved in the solar industry back in 1985 while working for Blount International on the SEGS projects at Kramer Junction in California. As the Project Administrator for SEGSS III-VII at Kramer Junction and and Project Engineering Manager for SEGS VIII and IX at Harper Dry Lake, I came to learn the relentless and often vicious resistance on the part of traditional energy companies to the introduction of alternative energy production. It is astonishing to me that the resistance has not abated and that regulatory agencies are seemingly powerless to affect a change.

Reliance on carbon fuels is not sustainable from both an availability or and environmental perspective. Florida PSC has an obligation to the taxpayers that want to participate in a solution to do just that. While it is unlikely that most homeowners will be completely self-sufficient, or that net-metering will ever put the energy companies at the mercy of homeowner-producers, we must do everything we can to make certain that solar is available and affordable for any homeowner that wants to take the responsibility and financial burden.

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,  
Matt Harris  
Titusville, FL 32780