

Antonia Hover

From: Hannah Barker
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2020 10:34 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket Correspondence
Attachments: SG33-KM_45820100510240.pdf

Good morning,

Please place the attached letter in Docket No. 20200000.

Hannah E. Barker

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Florida Public Service Commission
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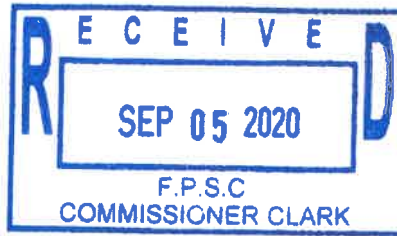
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

RICK KRISEMAN, MAYOR

September 17, 2020

Chairman Gary F. Clark
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399



Re: Commission review of net energy metering, **Docket No. 20200000**

Dear Chairman and Members of the Florida Public Service Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments on the Commission's' review of net energy metering and its upcoming workshop on Thursday, September 17th.

St. Petersburg averages 361 sunny days per year and holds the Guinness World Record for consecutive days of sunshine (768) in any U.S. city. In 2016, St. Petersburg was the first Florida city to commit to 100% renewable energy city-wide by 2035. In 2019, the City adopted its first Integrated Sustainability Action Plan (ISAP). The ISAP is an ambitious plan that outlines the City's current and future sustainability and resiliency initiatives. Notably, the Plan includes the City's first ever greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory and a roadmap for achieving 100% renewable energy by 2035 and a reduction in its GHG emissions by 80% by 2050.

Extensive public engagement conducted as part of the ISAP revealed several relevant common themes related to the need for solutions to address:

- 1) climate change & energy efficiencies;
- 2) resiliency; and
- 3) equity, specifically racial inequity was highlighted.

St. Petersburg adopted the ISAP and other policies in order to:

- Mitigate the environmental, economic and public health impacts of climate change;
- Improve our air and water quality;
- Build a healthy, sustainable, and more resilient future;
- Strengthen our economy and support more local jobs;
- Create sustainable jobs; and
- Protect public health, particularly of our most vulnerable community members.

St. Petersburg residents, business leadership, and City Council have supported local energy efficiency and solar investments through funding, education, and job creation to better take advantage of Florida's

solar potential every year for the last several years. The City has also supported Duke Energy Florida (DEF) as an early subscriber to the Clean Energy Connection (CEC) Program.

These facts are just a couple of ways that the City has demonstrated our willingness to invest financial, business, and community resources to work with DEF to successfully transition business paradigms that work for everyone to have a just transition to 100% clean energy.

While Florida energy providers have taken some steps recently to increase renewable energy sources, renewables are still a tiny fraction of the portfolios.

Energy providers have proven at times to be not only reliable, but successful innovators. Only a lack of will and imagination keep things at status quo or going backwards. Implementing ways to fairly share the costs of energy generation, transmission, and distribution while increasing diversity, decreasing fossil fuel dependence, and creating more incentives for solar installations in the Sunshine State are possible, and the **City would like to be a collaborator in that effort.**

Policies supportive of solar, including net energy metering, are critical to continue to push Florida forward into a position of leadership in clean energy. Solar energy has many benefits, including the following:

- Creates jobs that pay well, are local, and are in hands-on fields like installation;
- Enhances community resilience to power outages in the aftermath of storms and natural disasters; and
- Increases property values which can in turn help local governments to finance their services.

For these reasons, should the Commission decide to reexamine its rooftop solar policies, including net energy metering, it should proceed in a manner that is transparent, inclusive, balanced, deliberate, and fair. **Please consider the following process improvements:**

- Schedule multiple initial workshops to inform the scope of any rulemaking.
- Provide an opportunity for all members of the public, including local governments and their constituents, to participate in these workshops and to provide multiple rounds of written and oral comments.
- Ensure a process that is data-driven and accessible so that all stakeholders have access to important technical information including but not limited to data on solar adoption trends, the utilities' cost of service, and key resource planning considerations.

I appreciate your consideration of my comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 727-893-7201 or Richard.Kriseman@stpete.org with any questions.

Respectfully,



Rick Kriseman
Mayor
City of St. Petersburg