

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Chairman Clark
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 9:52 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: FW: Duke Energy's Clean Energy Connection Program - Docket No. 20200176
Attachments: Audubon Florida Comments to PSC on Duke Energy's Clean Energy Connection Program.pdf

Importance: High

Good morning,

Please place the attached email in Docket No. 20200176.

Hannah E. Barker

Executive Assistant to Chairman Clark
Florida Public Service Commission
[2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.](#)
[Tallahassee, FL 32399](#)
(850) 413-6004

From: Alvi, Beth [mailto: Beth.Alvi@audubon.org]
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 5:28 PM
To: Office of Chairman Clark; Forrest Boone
Cc: Wraithmell, Julie; David Glassner
Subject: Duke Energy's Clean Energy Connection Program - Docket No. 20200176
Importance: High

Dear Commissioner Clark,
Please accept Audubon Florida's letter of support (attached) for Duke Energy's Clean Connection Program. Please don't hesitate to let us know if we can provide additional information.
Regards,

Beth Alvi

Elizabeth Alvi
Director of Policy
W:850-999-1028
C:850-591-9784 (call/text)
balvi@audubon.org

Audubon Florida
308 N. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
FL.Audubon.org

November 13, 2020

Chairman Gary F. Clark
Commissioner Julie I. Brown
Commissioner Art Graham
Commissioner Andrew G. Fay
Commissioner Donald Polmann

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: Docket No. 20200176 – Petition to Approve Duke Energy’s Clean Energy Connection Program

Dear Chairman Clark and Members of the Public Service Commission:

Now, more than ever, Florida needs innovation and action to address the growing threat of climate change. Community solar is an important opportunity to allow consumers access to power from renewable sources and at the same time presents a valuable mechanism for financing the development of this infrastructure.

While not all community solar programs are created equal, Audubon Florida believes Duke Energy Florida’s (DEF) proposed Clean Energy Connection Program presents an important opportunity to expand Florida’s solar capacity and encourages its approval by the Public Service Commission (PSC). We believe it is taking a thoughtful approach to the opportunities solar can present in the following ways:

Land Use

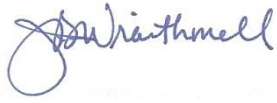
Not only does the installation of solar panels and large-scale systems as proposed by DEF help reduce our dependence on non-renewable energy sources, it can be a land use that provides ancillary environmental benefits to communities, birds and wildlife. Solar fields are good neighbors to local communities, with no water use, vegetative buffers to preserve viewsheds, and no additional traffic burdens on local roads. When appropriately sited, designed and managed, these solar fields can be a land use compatible with wetland protection, aquifer and wildlife habitat improvement. This is the standard Floridians expect from these installations.

Benefits to Low-Income and Communities of Color

An historic criticism of solar has been that cost has made it out of reach for consumers from low-income communities and communities of color. However, Audubon strongly believes that these issues can be overcome with program design and that moving Florida to a clean energy future is an essential pillar of environmental justice. Low-income and communities of color often suffer disproportionately the impacts of climate change including increased flooding, extreme heat and more. These communities also often suffer poorer air quality due to emissions from fossil fuel energy generation. Expanding Florida’s solar availability is critical to addressing these disproportionate impacts. Similarly, DEF’s proposal includes provisions to provide affordable energy to all participants, and takes the additional step of reserving 26MW of power for those under government subsidy.

Duke’s Community Solar Program would help energize Florida’s economy, while also advancing several PSC priorities: diversifying Florida’s energy generation portfolio, buffering consumers by providing greater

energy independence, and improving grid resilience. Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal; Audubon urges your support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Wraithmell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Julie Wraithmell
VP and Executive Director
Audubon Florida