



June 21, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Adam J. Teitzman
Office of Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 20210015-EI - Petition for rate increase by Florida Power Light & Company.

Dear Mr. Teitzman,

On behalf of Intervenor League of United Latin American Citizens of Florida, I have enclosed the testimony of Johannes Werner. Please file these documents in Docket No. 20210015-EI. Please contact me if there are any questions regarding this filing.

/s/ Bradley Marshall

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true copy and correct copy of the foregoing was served on this 21st day of June 2021, via electronic mail on:

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DATED this 21st day of June, 2021.

/s/ Bradley Marshall
Attorney

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**In re: Petition for rate increase)
 by Florida Power & Light) DOCKET NO. 20210015-EI
 Company)**

**DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF JOHANNES WERNER
ON BEHALF OF
LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN
CITIZENS OF FLORIDA**

June 21, 2021

1 **Q. Please state your name.**

2 A. Johannes Werner.

3 **Q. Where do you live?**

4 A. 2239 Ixora Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34234.

5 **Q. What organization are you a member of?**

6 A. The League of United Latin American Citizens.

7 **Q. How long have you been a member?**

8 A. I am a founding member of the Sarasota chapter of LULAC, which we started in 2018.

9 **Q. What is your source of income?**

10 A. I am a small business owner.

11 **Q. Are you a customer of FPL? If so, for how long?**

12 A. Yes. I have been a customer since 1996.

13 **Q. What do you think of FPL?**

14 A. FPL is not responsive to customer and citizen needs. There are black outs, and the rates
15 are increasing too fast. FPL has not responded well to the needs prompted by climate change.
16 We have been unable to go solar at our home because regulations backed by FPL make it
17 more difficult to do so.

18 **Q. How much does your FPL bill usually cost each month?**

19 A. Compared to other people I know who pay even higher bills, I am lucky enough to pay a
20 monthly bill that ranges from \$100 to \$150, thanks to owning a well-built home.

21 **Q. Based on information provided by FPL, the base rate for electricity is projected to
22 increase by about 20%. How would this rate increase impact you?**

23 A. An increase of about 20% in the power bill would be painful for me. Yet, it would be even
24 more painful for many of the people LULAC represents: those who earn minimum wage, live
25 in badly insulated homes, and spend more than half their income on rent and utilities. But

1 even for me personally, this rate increase would force me to cut back on my spending at a
2 moment when my business has already been down, adding another stressor to my financial
3 situation.

4 **Q. As a Floridian, are you concerned about climate change?**

5 A. Very much so. Florida is one of the most exposed states to climate change. We are
6 increasingly being hit with hurricanes, and hurricane season is becoming longer and more
7 unpredictable. I am also concerned about sea level rise and the resulting ground water
8 salination.

9 **Q: Based on information provided by FPL, part of this rate increase will pay for new or**
10 **upgraded methane gas power plants. Do you believe this will have an impact on the**
11 **climate?**

12 A. The rate increase requested by FPL pains me even more because FPL will use the added
13 revenue for construction of more natural-gas power plants. Gas already makes up more than
14 two-thirds of FPL's energy mix; even ignoring its harmful greenhouse gas emissions for a
15 moment, that's a lot of eggs in the same basket. But far more importantly, there is the
16 enormous challenge of climate change. By adding still more fossil-fuel power plants, FPL
17 bakes in more greenhouse gas emissions in the future and slows down an urgent transition to
18 renewables we should have begun more than two decades ago. This would negatively impact
19 my children's and grandchildren's lives. Under the current circumstances, I would oppose a
20 rate increase even if FPL were to use it for construction of solar farms. The Sunshine State
21 lags so far behind in the share of solar power in its energy mix, not because investor-owned
22 utilities are not building enough solar farms, but because they have been standing in the way
23 of solar on every roof and a battery at every home - the best option we have right now for a
24 rapid transition. At every turn, investor-owned utilities have used their influence to slow the
25 introduction of rooftop solar. Third-party solar providers have had to sue their way into the

1 Florida market.

2 **Q: How do you feel about contributing your own money to those projects, through your**
3 **FPL bill?**

4 A. I feel very bad about that, as more carbon emissions will accelerate climate change. It's
5 incredibly frustrating to know my money is being used against my will to directly undermine
6 the future of my kids and grandchildren.

7 **Q. What is the mission of your organization?**

8 A. The mission of LULAC is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment,
9 political influence, housing, health, and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United
10 States.

11 **Q. How is the purpose of your organization being served by participating in this**
12 **proceeding?**

13 A. Part of LULAC's mission is to "advance the economic condition ... of the Hispanic
14 population of the United States." This case is a perfect example why organizations like
15 LULAC are needed: Someone must step up when the voices of the most affected people are
16 hard to hear. Another part of LULAC's mission is to advance the civil rights of the Hispanic
17 population. The civil rights — the overall wellbeing of people and their meaningful
18 participation in the structural decisions that shape their lives — of future generations are at
19 stake here. This must weigh more in the decisions of the Public Service Commission than
20 guaranteeing profits for companies operating in a system that ties us to a failed past. My
21 main motivation to join LULAC was, and is, to give a voice to the voiceless. I belong to the
22 minority of foreigners who are eligible to enter the path to permanent residency and
23 eventually citizenship of the United States of America. I actually felt privileged while
24 waiting in line at the El Paso border crossing in 1992, collecting the last stamps on a pile of
25 application documents that took months to assemble; at that moment it dawned on me that

1 there is no line for most of us. Since moving to Sarasota with my Mexican-born wife, we
2 have made friends with many immigrants who work two or three jobs, send a lot of their
3 income to family back home, and keep their heads down, while dreaming of starting their
4 own business and giving their children a better life. Most of these folks cannot afford to take
5 time off and do what I am doing here with the Public Service Commission. They are often
6 facing language barriers, and many are reluctant to speak up. That's why it's essential for
7 LULAC to participate to represent these interests.

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