

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Chairman Clark
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 1:24 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: FW: Letter from Congressman Charlie Crist
Attachments: Crist PSC letter final.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20210015.

Hannah E. Barker

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

From: Charlie Crist [mailto:cc@charliecrist.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 6:16 PM
To: Office of Chairman Clark
Subject: Letter from Congressman Charlie Crist

Dear Sir —

Please see attached a letter regarding the Public Service Commission's current business.

Thank you,
Charlie Crist

**CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE CRIST
FLORIDA**

Gary F. Clark, Chairman
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

June 29, 2021

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

Dear Mr. Clark,

As the Florida Public Service Commission considers the proposed rate increase by Florida Power & Light Co., I urge you to reject this indefensible demand for more money from the pockets of Florida homeowners and businesses.

FPL's proposed rate increase of more than \$1.8 billion between Jan. 1, 2022, through 2025 is unconscionable. The typical FPL residential customer outside Northwest Florida would see their bill go up by 18 percent over that time, from \$99.05 in January 2021 to \$117.06 in January 2025. Floridians simply cannot afford it.

As you know, FPL and other electric utilities are monopolies that by law have no competition within their service territories, and the PSC sets their return on equity (ROE) that reflects the return that flows to shareholders. The current ROE of 10.55 percent for FPL already is too high, and the utility's request for an exorbitant increase to 11.5 percent would result in its customers paying several hundred million dollars in higher electric bills in 2022 and 2023 alone. It's instructive that the Office of Public Counsel, which represents ratepayers before the PSC, has recommended that FPL's ROE be reduced – not increased – to 8.75 percent. For FPL customers, that's a difference of \$990 million between what their advocate thinks is reasonable and what FPL wants. I urge you to accept the position of the Office of Public Counsel.

You may recall that as Florida's governor between 2007 and 2011, I appointed independent thinkers to the PSC who were not captive to the utilities they regulated. As Floridians coped with the fallout of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, I led the fight against rate increases sought by Progress Energy Florida — now Duke Energy Florida — and FPL. I sought and won delays in those cases until my two newest appointees to the PSC took office. That PSC then did the right thing for the people by rejecting Progress Energy's proposed rate increase, and it rejected more than 99 percent of FPL's proposed increase.

I am asking the PSC once again to do the right thing for Floridians who are still recovering economically from the greatest public health crisis in more than a century. Many people, through no fault of their own, are already struggling to pay bills.

Reject FPL's outrageous request for higher rates – and lower the rates instead. A monopoly should not be allowed to raise more than \$1.8 billion in additional revenue from hard-working Floridians who can't afford to pay it – and who can't shop elsewhere for the electricity they need to power their homes and businesses.

Sincerely,



Charlie Crist