

**Hiep Nguyen**

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**From:** Office of Commissioner La Rosa  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 4, 2022 9:26 AM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** FW: FPL Storm Protection Plan

Good morning,

Please place the email below in CORRESPONDENCE-Consumers & Representatives in docket 20220051.

Thank you.

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**From:** George Kruse <george.kruse@mymanatee.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 03, 2022 6:32 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>  
**Subject:** FPL Storm Protection Plan

Commissioner La Rosa,

I'm a Commissioner in Manatee County - although I write this email from my personal view and not as one formally adopted by our Board. It is in reference to the upcoming discussion on allowable spending for FPL's Storm Protection Plan and the hardening of our electrical grid. I have serious concerns about restricting preventative spending on the protection of our electrical systems, as witnessed right now in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian. I am a strong advocate for small government and typically take the side of lower taxes, rates and fees whenever possible. However, I also believe that, as local government, we have only a few fundamental requirements to provide for our citizens, and their safety and well-being is at the top of that list.

We have once again witnessed the frustration of all our residents as their power goes out for an extended period of time. It disrupts business, it lowers the quality of life of our citizens and it causes issues with our infrastructure, lift stations and schools. We should be encouraging our utility providers to maximize the funding and speed of hardening all our systems as we see these storms continue to come stronger and more frequently. I can all but guarantee that the cost in food from residents, the cost of repairs from government and the cost in lower productivity from businesses far outpace whatever nominal cost would be passed along in rates to cover an expedited hardening and protection plan for the future and benefit of our community.

Please do not tie the hands of FPL and or any other provider as they work to maintain such an important piece of our community infrastructure. If you have time, I'd appreciate an opportunity to discuss this further before any decisions are made on our future. If not, please weigh the future detrimental community costs of antiquated systems with the nominal costs of rate payers providing adequate funds to ensure a safe, secure and stable electrical system during the next storm to pass through Florida.

Thank you and have a great day.

George W Kruse  
Board of County Commissioners, District 7  
Manatee County Government  
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Bradenton, FL 34205  
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**SET UP A 15 MINUTE ZOOM CALL**