

Antonia Hover

From: Office of Commissioner Clark
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 3:46 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: FW: Utility Rates

Good afternoon,

Please place the attached email in Docket No. 20210015.

Hannah E. Branum

Executive Assistant to Commissioner Clark
Florida Public Service Commission
[2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.](#)
[Tallahassee, FL 32399](#)

(850) 413-6004



From: Robert Band <jr_rmb@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2023 10:54 AM
To: Office of Chairman Fay <Commissioner.Fay@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Graham <Commissioner.Graham@PSC.STATE.FL.US>; Office of Commissioner Clark <Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us>; Office of Commissioner Passidomo <Commissioner.Passidomo@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: Utility Rates

Dear Chairman Fay and fellow Public Service Commissioners:

I am a customer of Florida Power & Light in Brevard County. Over the past year, I have seen my monthly rates increase nearly 20% from an average of \$77 to \$93. The problem I have with these increases is that they were approved by the commission while FPL continues to have a low renewable energy portfolio that doesn't allow for cheaper rates.

Currently, FPL's renewable portfolio consists of 76% natural gas and 11 % solar (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/1149001/generation-capacity-mix-fpl-nextera-energy>). This despite the fact that on average Florida has 230 days of sunshine. Natural gas is not a solution - it is a nonrenewable resource that emits carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that is contributing to the climate crisis.

Why This Matters:

Our planet is in a climate crisis as displayed by the recent fires in Canada. Storms are more intense, winters are harsher, and property insurance continues to increase due to the damage caused by these storms. The IPCC has recently indicated that a severe reduction in fossil fuel emissions is needed by 2030, in order to avoid the worse effects of climate change. Utilities must lead this transition by providing clean energy that is reliable and affordable; electric utilities have no excuse to delay and no time left to waste. As the regulating body for the state, the PSC has the ability to make this happen.

As a respiratory therapist, I have seen the impacts of climate change on my patients. I am seeing increased ER visits from heat-related breathing problems to exacerbation of COPD symptoms due to smoke. Usually, this disproportionately affects marginalized communities. These communities are already feeling powerless thanks to state policies. Also, they don't have the resources that FPL (with guaranteed profit margins of 10% or higher) has to spend on commission hearings where they can be heard.

Climate change is not a partisan issue, it is impacting all of us. Now is the time to use your authority and do the right thing for us, our planet and future generations.

Thank you,

Robert Band
Palm Bay, Florida