

June 2,2024

Office of Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850  
Re: Docket No 20240026-EL

To whom it may concern I am writing this letter in regards to the proposed TECO base rate increase for 2025 and there on. I see that TECO is requesting a **50%** increase for yr 2025 from current .71 to 1.07 per day. As a senior on a fixed income, I hope that this commission is considering the current inflation rate we all have faced in the Biden Term mostly due to cost of gasoline which affects every product or service we use for every day living. Florida is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest electric cost in the nation up from 13<sup>th</sup> a decade ago.

While I do agree with continued solar expansion TECO plans, I too have invested in solar for my home in 2023 at a huge cost which if such base rate increases are approved will take me several more years to pay off what I have spent just to break even. My current recoup cost is expected to take 8 – 9 more years to get my invested \$ spent to help reduce carbon footprint but I do not receive any green renewable credits on my bill. I am an investor in TECO and am do not see a ROE of 11% on my bills like they are so concerned with giving back to them.

The base rate affects **every** electric customer out there and I hope you will reconsider such proposed base rate increase. Hillsborough County has received nearly double the crisis calls in a single year for bill pay help to 28,000 for assistance. That alone should make someone on the commission take notice that people are struggling to pay for electric or food especially seniors and all households.

Please reconsider your vote on this much increase in one year. Perhaps solar customers should be given a discount from other customers base rate as it is. People just are not able to absorb this much inflation this fast. Living in Florida is becoming too expensive to stay here when it has been my home for 51 years and its not like we can choose which electric company to have or not. TECO has not been the best provider for continued service for several years. Many occasions our power is flipped off for no reason and causes appliances to reboot. I have made complaints to TECO with no reason given or even a call back. I was on Lakeland Electric for many years and never had such power glitches as TECO does in our area sometimes every month or so. Progress begins with getting your own house in order like I have done.

Best Regards,  
Sandra Kohlmeyer  
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