

Bendria Fugnole

From: Ellen Plendl
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2025 11:04 AM
To: Consumer Correspondence
Subject: Docket Nos. 20240173 and 20250010
Attachments: Storm Recovery Costs & Utility Riders: Need Fairness for Impacted Homeowners

See attached customer correspondence for Docket Nos. 20240173 and 20250010.

Bendria Fugnole

From: JJ Barrett <hollywoodmagic@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 15, 2025 12:34 AM
To: sen.diceglie@flsenate.gov; Rep.Linda.Chaney@myfloridahouse.gov
Cc: Consumer Contact; apl@voteannapaulina.com; TLHoffice@rubio.senate.gov
Subject: Storm Recovery Costs & Utility Riders: Need Fairness for Impacted Homeowners

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Dear Senator DiCeglie & Representative Chaney,

I am writing as a Florida homeowner whose property was severely impacted by recent hurricanes and flooding and who has undertaken a costly and prolonged rebuilding process in their aftermath.

Like many Floridians, I experienced storm damage, extended displacement and construction, and insurance challenges — all while continuing to pay full property taxes and escalating electric utility bills. I rebuilt my home responsibly and deliberately, investing in heavy-duty FEMA-approved flood mitigation infrastructure, modern insulation, new ductwork, efficient HVAC systems, propane water heating, and reduced electric load specifically to improve resilience and reduce strain on the electrical grid.

Despite these efforts, my electric bills now include multiple “storm recovery riders” that guarantee utilities full cost recovery — with profit — for infrastructure damage caused by the same storms that devastated my home. Utilities receive automatic, long-term recovery mechanisms. Homeowners receive none. This imbalance is increasingly difficult to justify.

Other states have demonstrated that disaster relief can include taxpayers, not just corporations. Tennessee, for example, enacted targeted property tax relief for storm-damaged homeowners — even in areas that experienced significantly less impact than coastal Florida communities like mine.

Florida residents, by contrast, face:

- No meaningful property tax relief following FEMA-declared disasters
- No utility-bill credits during displacement or reconstruction

- No offset or suspension of storm recovery riders for impacted properties

In effect, homeowners are paying twice: first through direct loss and rebuilding costs, and again through utility riders designed to protect corporate balance sheets.

I am not asking for permanent subsidies or special treatment. I am asking for fairness.

At minimum, Florida should consider:

- Temporary utility-bill credits or storm-rider offsets for damaged or displaced properties
- Time-limited property tax relief tied to FEMA disaster declarations
- Suspension or reduction of storm recovery riders for impacted homeowners
- Greater transparency regarding the duration and cumulative impact of storm recovery charges

Floridians who rebuild, harden their homes, and reduce load should not be penalized for doing the right thing. Storm recovery should not be a one-way street.

I respectfully urge you to support legislative, regulatory, or utility policy changes that recognize the human cost of these disasters — not just the infrastructure cost.

Thank you for your attention and service.

Sincerely,

Julie J. Barrett

3730 Belle Vista Dr

St. Pete Beach, Florida 33706

(323) 321-6006