



PSC Chairman Brisé Educates Consumers on Energy-Saving Measures During Energy Action Month

October was a busy month at the Public Service Commission (PSC) with Chairman Ronald A. Brisé participating in two Energy Action Month events. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, the PSC observes Energy Action Month each year to promote energy efficiency and smart energy choices, while also highlighting economic and job growth, environmental protection, and increased energy independence.

On October 19, Chairman Brisé and senior PSC staff, exchanged their suits for jeans and participated in a locally-sponsored Big Bend Habitat for Humanity (BBHH) "build." The event was recognized by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) as part of their partnership with a Habitat for Humanity branch, and their "Anybody Can Serve, So Let's Conserve" campaign.

"Habitat's mission to build energy-efficient, affordable homes is something the Commission believes is important for all Florida consumers and supports the Energy Action Month conservation message," said Chairman Brisé. "Promoting energy efficiency and conservation not only is economically important, it's essential to our environment and way of life."

Neighborhood REACH Program

On October 31, Chairman Brisé teamed up with Tallahassee Mayor John Marks to "weatherize" neighborhoods through the Tallahassee REACH Program. The Chairman, Mayor, and City crew members knocked on doors in the Mabry Manor neighborhood to install free energy-saving products, seal leaks, and offer hands-on energy efficiency education.

Neighborhood REACH, part of the City's Energy Smart Plus (e+) initiative, helps eligible utility customers save energy and money by making their homes more energy and water efficient—all at no cost to the customer. "The City's REACH program is a prime example of 'energy action,' providing utility customers with choices in how to better manage their electric and water usage, helping them to conserve and save money," said Chairman Brisé. "That is something we can all rally behind and support."

Also in October...

Chairman Brisé Highlights Relay Call Center

Chairman Brisé provided the Keynote Address at the National Association for State Relay Administration (NASRA) Conference on October 22 in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The conference, held for the first time in Florida, is a platform for national and international organizations to discuss policies, new ideas, and outreach for telecommunications relay services, allowing hard-of-hearing, deaf, deaf-blind, and speech impaired residents to make telephone calls.

"Almost 16 percent of Florida's population can benefit from some form of relay service, and it is our responsibility to meet the needs of these citizens," said Chairman Brisé. Chairman Brisé highlighted the AT&T Miami Relay Center opening in August and demonstrated how the new call center facilitates telephone calls between people with hearing loss or speech disabilities and other individuals. The new call center is projected to handle 75 percent of Florida's telecommunications relay service and created 44 jobs for the state.