

**Collin Roehner**

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**From:** Office of Commissioner Brown  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 07, 2016 8:19 AM  
**To:** 'Susan MacDonald'; Office of Commissioner Brown; Office of Commissioner Brisé; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office Of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Patronis  
**Cc:** Records Clerk; negron.joe@fla.senate.gov; richard.corcoran@myfloridahouse.gov; rick.scott@eog.myflorida.com  
**Subject:** RE: Indian River Shores' electric service

On behalf of Chairman Brown, we have received your email. The Commission Clerk has placed a copy of your email in Docket Correspondence, Consumers and their Representatives, in Docket No. 160049-EU, *In re: Petition by the Town of Indian River Shores for Modification of Territorial Order Based on Changed Legal Circumstances Emanating from Article VIII, Section 2(c) of the Florida Constitution*. Thank you for providing the Commission with your comments.

Sincerely,

Office of Chairman Brown

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**From:** Susan MacDonald [<mailto:susiemacdonald@me.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 06, 2016 2:25 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Brown; Office of Commissioner Brisé; Office Of Commissioner Edgar; Office Of Commissioner Graham; Office of Commissioner Patronis  
**Cc:** Records Clerk; [negron.joe@fla.senate.gov](mailto:negron.joe@fla.senate.gov); [richard.corcoran@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:richard.corcoran@myfloridahouse.gov); [rick.scott@eog.myflorida.com](mailto:rick.scott@eog.myflorida.com)  
**Subject:** Indian River Shores' electric service

Dear Commissioners,

I am a retired High School US government teacher. We have lived in Indian River Shores for almost 20 years. I would like to appeal to your obvious love of democracy and civic interest (you are giving your gracious time to a government service) to address the egregious nondemocratic, non-representative, oppressive, unfair, and abusive situation which was carved out for some residents of Indian River Shores unwittingly 28 years ago. Mistakes have been compounded, but certainly you must agree, that now is the time to rectify the situation. I hope that you, as an earnest government official, will have the courage to do “what is right.”

- Vero Beach is operating an unregulated monopoly in our Town, and is subjecting its captive customers in our Town to unregulated monopoly abuses, including excessive electricity prices (which are now over 30% higher than FPL's) and inferior quality of service (e.g., unlike FPL, the City does not offer rebates for energy efficient appliances nor does it offer smart meters that can lower electric bills). **Unregulated monopolies are not in the public interest.**
- Having FPL, whose rates are professionally and neutrally regulated by the PSC, as the single electric utility provider in our Town would cure these issues.
- Not only are our residents captive customers to the Vero Beach electric utility, they also are completely disenfranchised. Our residents have no say whatsoever in how the Vero utility operates, how rates are set, or how the City of Vero Beach uses the unregulated profits that it extracts from us. This was exemplified by the City Council's cavalier rejection of its own Utilities Commission's unanimous recommendation to accept FPL's

\$30 million cash offer to purchase the utility system in our Town. Not only that, Mayor Kramer and Councilman Winger publicly ridiculed members of the Utilities Commission that the City Council itself appointed to make recommendations regarding the electric utility.

- Meanwhile, our residents are forced to subsidize the operations of a City that is unaccountable to them. **This is classic “taxation without representation.”**
- Our neighbors who are fortunate enough to be served by FPL are provided with a team of lawyers from the Office of Public Counsel -- funded entirely by the State of Florida -- whose sole charge is to protect FPL customers from excessive electric rates and poor quality of service. Unfortunately our residents who are forced to take service from the Vero Beach utility are precluded from using the State-funded legal services of the Office of Public Counsel. Instead, they are left to fend for themselves and are totally at the mercy of the Vero unregulated monopoly.
- The predecessors to the current PSC created this debacle when they approved the Territorial Agreement over 28 years ago.
- The PSC has not reviewed that territorial agreement as it applies to our Town in over 28 years.
- Now is the time for the current PSC to correct these injustices.

Thanks for your civic interest. We appreciate our officials being responsive to their citizenry.

Sincerely,

Susan MacDonald

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216-973-6811 cell phone