

Antonia Hover

From: Veronica Washington
Sent: Wednesday, August 15, 2018 9:36 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20170235-EU/20170236-EU
Attachments: Mayor T. Slater-Indian River Shores Florida.pdf

Please place the attached e-mail in docket correspondence consumers and their representatives in Docket No. 20170235-EU/20170236-EU. Thanks

MAYOR
THOMAS F. SLATER

VICE MAYOR
MICHAEL B. OCHSNER

COUNCIL:
ROBERT F. AUWAERTER
RICHARD M. HAVERLAND
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August 9, 2018

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32311
ATTN: Chairman Art Graham



Re: October 9-10 Hearing – Dockets Nos. 20170236-EU & 20170235-EU

Dear Chairman Graham,

As Mayor of the Town of Indian River Shores, I want you and your fellow Commissioners to understand my constituents celebrated when the Commission issued its order on July 2nd approving FPL's request to acquire the Vero Beach Electric System. Prior to that order, a unique territorial boundary line split our Town in two, with some of our residents being served by FPL, and others by Vero Electric. Consequently, my constituents were served by two vastly different utilities, with vastly different rates, and vastly different service levels. Not only did the territorial line fragment our community, it opened the door for our neighbor, Vero Beach, to in effect "tax" our Town and its residents by unilaterally imposing high unregulated rates over which my constituents had no say. I believe this violates a fundamental principle on which our Nation was founded, namely there shall be no taxation without representation. The fall-out from this unique situation has been extraordinarily divisive, and spawned a number of different lawsuits, one of which has been pending before your agency in Docket No. 20160049-GU for years.

Nobody wants to sue his or her neighbor, but we were compelled to bring action against Vero Beach under these circumstances. Fortunately, the July 2nd order resolved this litigation among neighboring communities by unifying electric service within our Town, and allowing all customers in the region to receive the benefits of FPL's service. For that we are most appreciative. We also appreciate that your order ensures my constituents are given protection by the Office of Public Counsel. To that end, I want to commend Florida's Public Counsel-- Mr. J.R. Kelly -- for publicly stating that he will not oppose your July 2nd order, and I look forward to Mr. Kelly's support and protection.

It is unfortunate the same cannot be said for the Florida Industrial Power Users Group (FIPUG). With a closing date set, and a light at the end of the tunnel, my constituents were astounded that a small group of unnamed companies at the last minute would try to scuttle the sale that has been decades in the making and would benefit so many. FIPUG says that some of its members are already FPL customers. Why would they want to limit our ability to be FPL customers as well, especially when our presence will help share fixed costs across an expanded customer base?

I along with others in our community will travel to Tallahassee to attend the hearing which I understand will be held on October 9-10. I respectfully request that our residents and I have the opportunity to speak during public comment at that hearing.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if there are any procedures you would like us to follow when we arrive in Tallahassee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Slater', is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

Thomas F. Slater
Mayor, Indian River Shores

CC:

Commissioner Julie Brown

Commissioner Gary Clark

Commissioner Donald Polmann

Commissioner Andrew Fay

Florida Public Counsel J.R. Kelly