

Jacob Veaghn

From: Jacob Veaghn on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 9:04 AM
To: 'cohen4mkt@prodigy.net'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Good afternoon, Michael Cohen

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20200000 and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Jacob Veaghn
Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
Jacob.Veaghn@psc.state.fl.us
850.413.6656

-----Original Message-----

From: cohen4mkt@everyactioncustom.com <cohen4mkt@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 11:36 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Dear Florida Public Service Commission,

There are no subsidies in Florida for residential solar, so the bill credit homeowners can receive through net metering provides an important opportunity to make solar economical. Some utilities want to penalize solar-powered homes for not using enough electricity, but this unfairly targets a form of electricity generation that is both efficient and creates good jobs.

If a homeowner uses less electricity by setting the thermostat higher, they are not penalized by a utility. Same if that customer uses LED light bulbs, buys an efficient refrigerator or heat pump, or adds insulation – in fact, sometimes these lead to cash rebates. But not so with solar.

We would all benefit from policies that make solar easier, not harder. Many solar homeowners are middle class, including teachers, retirees, nurses and small business owners, and they invest on average about \$15,000 to install solar. Net metering is key to advancing the solar industry beyond these early adopters.

If you question the power of regulations to improve or stifle an emerging industry, ask yourself where the mobile phone industry would be if the Public Service Commission had ruled for the monopoly phone companies by declaring that phone batteries could only hold a five-minute charge or rollover or unlimited minutes would be prohibited – we'd all still be carrying loose change so we could use pay phones to make calls.

Last year, Florida was number two in the country with 12,202 jobs in solar, almost double the state's number from just four years earlier. But the COVID-19 pandemic has hit the industry hard. The job losses over the last six months or so

have been significant and a decision to eliminate or erode Florida's existing net metering policies could be the final blow for many small businesses.

The reality is that without net metering, solar becomes less affordable – and if fewer people go solar, then fewer Floridians will be employed in this growth industry.

Sincerely,
Michael Cohen
2505 Donaldson Dr Orlando, FL 32812-8406