

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 1:56 PM
To: 'alicekarow@gmail.com'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Good Afternoon, Ms. Karow.

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

Thank you!

Toni Hover
Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Phone: (850) 413-6467

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

From: alicekarow@everyactioncustom.com <alicekarow@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 1:42 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Dear Florida Public Service Commission,

Here are my thoughts to add to the comments below:

Florida is in a unique position to benefit from solar power since we enjoy so much sunny weather - and Florida also has steeply increasing electricity needs due to the influx of population and industry to our state, as well as increased popularity of electric cars.

Rooftop solar panels, photovoltaic glass in windows, skylights and footpaths, and any other new technologies that produce electricity from solar power should be required in all new buildings (both commercial and residential) and older buildings should be transitioned to solar with incentives such as tax credits and subsidies.

It's confusing to me that Florida isn't already a leader in developing universal solar power - but now there's no excuse. The cost of photovoltaics as well as storage batteries has come down; the appearance is much more acceptable (solar roof shingles that are indistinguishable from conventional roofing), etc.

IF all buildings were converted to rooftop solar, there would not be the need to create "solar farms" on wild land -- and we need to preserve our wild lands and continue restoring them, especially the Everglades and the areas from Orlando and Lake Okeechobee south that feed the Everglades. Human life cannot continue without wildlife, all the way from insects that pollenate our food crops to scavengers who feed on what otherwise would rot all around us, to the plants that feed wildlife and filter water that becomes our clean drinking water, to the trees and grasslands that take carbon out of the air and produce the oxygen we need to breathe.

Over the last century, the electric utilities have profited abundantly from providing power which has become a necessity and not a luxury. And, in recent decades, for-profit entities have become degraded by the race for profits, at the expense of their workers, communities and environment, and producing the current extremes of wealth inequality.

Encouraging roof top solar power and energy self-sufficiency is a matter of national security and community security in many ways.

First of all, power outages, disrupting the electric grid remain a target of the US's enemies and rogue terrorists - not to mention hurricanes, natural disasters, heat waves. Having roof top solar assures homeowners, businesses and essential services like hospitals, TV/radio broadcasters, fire stations and police that their power will not go out, AND allows for the excess generated to go to the utilities relieving the excess need.

Secondly, civil unrest over financial crisis is now a real threat. Allowing for energy self sufficiency allows peace of mind for all of us.

Amid a public health and economic crisis, it's clear that Florida's electric utilities should be doing a whole lot more to promote rooftop solar - a known job creator that keeps money in families' pockets.

Before COVID-19, "solar installer" was the fastest growing job in the country, and the solar industry employed 250,000 people. The COVID-19 crisis could put half, 125,000, of these jobs at risk in communities across the United States. In the Sunshine state, before this crisis began, the solar industry employed over 12,000 Floridians. Now, over 1 million Floridians are unemployed, and Florida has already lost 22% of its workforce.

People and businesses across the state rely on common sense solar policies to take control of their own energy, save money, and choose how they power their lives.

Not only does solar create jobs and save us money, but when paired with batteries, solar panels can contribute to the resilience of the electric grid and provide back-up power in emergencies. As we face another intense hurricane season, Floridians need more tools – not fewer – in order to weather all the storms that are coming our way.

Thank you for defending solar workers, business owners, and residents by protecting our bedrock solar policies here in Florida.

Sincerely,

Alice Karow

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