

Jacob Veaughn

From: Jacob Veaughn on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2020 8:44 AM
To: 'earthgreek@yahoo.com'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket no. 20200219-EI, Stop Utility Disconnections Now. Protect FL Families During COVID!

Good afternoon, Eugenia Economos

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20200219 and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Jacob Veaughn

Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
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From: Eugenia Economos <Eugenia.Economos.231175911@p2a.co>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2020 9:55 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Docket no. 20200219-EI, Stop Utility Disconnections Now. Protect FL Families During COVID!

Dear Public Service Commission:

Hi, my name is Eugenia Economos and I live in Orlando. I work in and with low-income communities as part of my job, and the organization that I work for has offices in five areas of the state in Central and South Florida. I work with farmworkers who are exposed to extreme high heat and high heat index temperatures every day. In addition, because of the type of work that they do - to feed America - they generate additional metabolic heat that can raise their core body temperature. They often have to wear PPE to protect themselves from pesticides. It is extremely important for these and other outdoor workers to have a cool down time and place in order to protect their health and safety so they can keep working. Power shut downs could mean life or death to workers if they lose their electricity and air conditioning because there was not enough work for them to pay their bills.

As a Florida resident and ratepayer, I am extremely concerned about the prospect of utilities taking adverse action to leave Florida families without access to electricity during the pandemic.

Families are already struggling to cope with the effects of a pandemic which has cost more than 200,000 lives and infected millions. In Florida, almost 700,000 people have been infected and more than 13,500 lives have been lost to COVID since March.

COVID disconnections present an immediate danger as families struggle to protect the health and safety by staying home and abiding by the social distancing guidelines set by public health authorities. People without electricity in their homes will have no ability to stay cool, power medical devices, communicate with others, or stay warm during the winter. Electricity is an essential good; without it, people cannot stay in their homes and

must seek shelter elsewhere, amounting to an eviction. More than 1 million people in Florida could be severely impacted by utility disconnections.

It's time for the Public Service Commission to exercise its authority to ensure that Florida families are protected from disconnections during the pandemic. The PSC must issue an emergency order preventing utility companies from taking adverse action against struggling Florida families. Disconnections will exacerbate an already severe public health crisis.

This is an issue of health equity and health justice. It is imperative that the state comes out on the side of protecting its residents and rate payers (who would be paying their bills if not for COVID) and finding solutions not creating more and devastating problems. Our health, livelihoods, and the economy depend upon it.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Regards,
Eugenia Economos ■