

**Antonia Hover**

**From:** Hannah Barker  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 2:57 PM  
**To:** Commissioner Correspondence  
**Subject:** FW:

Good afternoon,

Please place the attached email in Docket No. 20210016.

**Hannah E. Branum**  
Executive Assistant to Commissioner Clark  
Florida Public Service Commission  
[2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.](#)  
[Tallahassee, FL 32399](#)  
(850) 413-6004

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**From:** Office of Commissioner Clark  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2022 2:56 PM  
**To:** 'richard goodburlet' <goodburlet@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE:

Dear Mr. Goodburlet,

Thank you for contacting me to express your concerns and frustrations about your recent Duke Energy Florida, LLC (Duke) bills. I know how challenging increased energy costs can be for families.

As you may know, the Florida Public Service Commission is the agency that regulates the electric companies in the state of Florida, and are required by law to set rates based on the cost of service. In March of 2021 we approved a settlement agreement setting new rates, effective January 2022. The settlement was negotiated and filed with the PSC by several parties, including Duke, the Office of Public Counsel—the attorney representing ratepayers before the PSC—and other consumer groups.

A part of that settlement agreement was the provision you reference in your email, a thirty dollar minimum monthly bill, I wanted to explain my reasons for supporting it. I mentioned above that we set rates based on the cost of service. That means we set rates for each rate class that reflect what it actually costs for the company to provide electricity to them. The only accounts that the minimum bill provision affects are those with very low or zero usage. Duke must build a system that is ready and able to serve those accounts even in months when they are not in use. The wires have to be available, the power plants have to be ready to provide that electricity to those accounts even if they are not used in a particular month. The minimum bill causes low use customer accounts to pay what it costs for the company to serve them at any time the customer chooses to use energy. This ensures that other Duke costumers are not subsidizing low use customer accounts.

I supported the minimum bill provision for the above reasons, and I voted for the Duke Settlement Agreement, because taken as a whole I found it in the public interest. I understand that you may disagree. My role is to ensure safe, reliable utility services at fair prices, and I continue to work for rates that are fair to each customer. Thank you, again, for contacting me, I appreciate the opportunity to hear your perspective.

Sincerely,

Gary F. Clark  
Commissioner  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 413-6038

**From:** richard goodburlet <[goodburlet@gmail.com](mailto:goodburlet@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2022 12:37 PM  
**To:** Office of Commissioner Clark <[Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us)>  
**Subject:**

Gary:

I am flabbergasted that a utility company in my beloved country of the United States of America, (for which I served in the capacity as an Army officer and incurred a disability), has been allowed by your commission to impose a minimum fee on my electric bill. What do I receive for this fee? I'm not getting any additional kWh or better customer service, and you and I both know this fee is not for grid maintenance. I'm sure you wouldn't be happy if each time you filled your car with fuel, you were charged a minimum fee of \$105, even though the physical limitation of your tank only allows you to put a maximum of \$50 in it.

I cannot comprehend how it is viewed as acceptable to impose a fee for which the entity whom the fee is charged to (me) gets neither a commodity nor a service for this fee. I have no problem paying a fee when in turn I am provided a service or a product. That is the way the monetary system is designed. Are we now modeling our system after the Russian way? What's next; the local grocery store charging a minimum fee of \$10 per visit to just walk through the door even if I only buy a \$1.25 candy bar?

I purchased solar as I felt it was good for the environment and even the Federal government gave me a 30% tax credit showing their support. The current president has several "green" initiatives showing support. To make matters worse, I don't even have a choice to choose an alternate power company in Florida. Duke has a monopoly on the market in St. Pete Beach, FL (which is supposed to be illegal in America). Why stop at a \$30 minimum? Just think of all the additional money you could put in the lobbyists pockets if you raised this to \$100?

Is there any way this un-American, unfair fee can be revoked? I can be contacted at 239-699-7070 any time to discuss. I really hope this can be made right and my faith in the American way restored.