

Yvette Gillespie

From: Office of Commissioner Passidomo
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 10:43 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: Docket No. 20240000
Attachments: Kendall Ltr 1.30.24.pdf

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20240000.

Thank you!

Commissioner Gabriella Passidomo
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399

150 Waterfall Way #101
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
January 17, 2024



Dear Commissioner Passidomo,

Late last year the UN Conference of Parties (COP 28) finally agreed that the world must “transition away from fossil fuels.” The impacts from anthropogenic global warming can no longer be ignored. It was a significant announcement, especially emanating from major oil producer UAE.

The World Meteorological Organization said the earth endured its hottest northern hemisphere summer ever measured. NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information confirmed a historic year in the number of costly weather events with 28 climate disasters costing at least \$92 billion for people of the United States. Insurance companies can no longer measure the risks associated with their investments and are literally leaving town. Attribution scientists can now more confidently tell us how much greenhouse gases increase the force and expense of these natural events. Leaders around the world agree we must move rapidly away from burning fossils to create electricity.

I was an advocate for using the sun’s energy even before I understood how burning fossil fuels created greenhouse gases that trapped infrared radiation. Coal, oil and gas mining, refining and burning were always the dirty industries for me, polluting not just the air with particulates, but fouling water and land with spills and coal ash. Now, the urgency presented by the overheating earth must end their dominance. Solar energy is clean and being converted to electricity more and more efficiently. It is available to everyone with just the cost of conversion which has been declining rapidly

Florida utilities and the PSC should be commended for working together to begin the transition away from fossil generated electricity. Both public and municipal utilities have endorsed solar farms in their generation portfolios. Battery systems are also being added. This has all happened in the last decade. Now we must pick up the pace. Economic conditions are favorable as new PV manufacturing plants in the U.S. promise even further price declines. Florida is well positioned now to gain on other states that have already added larger percentages of renewable energy to their electrical generation.

I’m concerned that a solar competition is emerging between homeowners and their utilities - and the utilities appear to be winning. Net metering rules have been challenged by a utility written bill (wisely vetoed by the governor) and some utilities are penalizing solar homeowners with special charges. The state has enacted legislation that encourages solar home ownership while our utilities are taking actions which discourage it. We need all solar interests moving in the same direction.

I was puzzled why utilities are not using rooftops for their solar arrays. Green space for solar farms is not unlimited. Rooftop space can serve a dual purpose; protect the shelter and support PV panels simultaneously. Using this space is the obvious way to save farmland while powering the grid. Large warehouses can support megawatts of solar and parking lots are ideal for solar canopies. Why are these spaces being ignored?

I found that utility assets enhance financial statements and inform rate increases. Without owning the real estate under the rooftops only the PV panels can contribute to their asset base. In the solar farm arrangement, they own the real estate. This twist in accounting is preventing utilities from acting responsibly.

It is my hope that the Public Service Commissioners will investigate and resolve these solar impediments. As we move more rapidly away from burning fossils toward an electrical system generated by the burning sun, it matters how we get there.

Respectfully,


Samuel Kendall