

BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

In re:

DOCKET NO. 20250011-EI

Petition for rate increase by  
Florida Power & Light Company.

PROCEEDINGS: SERVICE HEARING

COMMISSIONERS  
PARTICIPATING:

CHAIRMAN MIKE LA ROSA  
COMMISSIONER ART GRAHAM  
COMMISSIONER GARY F. CLARK  
COMMISSIONER ANDREW GILES FAY  
COMMISSIONER GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO SMITH

DATE: Wednesday, May 28, 2025

TIME: Commenced: 9:00 a.m.  
Concluded: 10:45 a.m.

PLACE: Lee County Civic Center  
Davidson House  
11831 Bayshore Road  
North Ft. Myers, Florida

REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK  
Court Reporter and  
Notary Public in and for  
the State of Florida at Large

PREMIER REPORTING  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
(850) 894-0828

1 APPEARANCES:

2 JOHN BURNETT and MONICA BARNES, ESQUIRES, 700  
3 Universe Boulevard, Juno Beach, FL 33408-0420; KENNETH  
4 A. HOFFMAN, ESQUIRE, 134 West Jefferson Street,  
5 Tallahassee, FL 32301-1713; appearing on behalf of  
6 Florida Power & Light Company (FPL).

7 WALT TRIERWEILER, PUBLIC COUNSEL, OFFICE OF  
8 PUBLIC COUNSEL, c/o The Florida Legislature, 111 West  
9 Madison Street, Room 812, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400,  
10 appearing on behalf of the Citizens of the State of  
11 Florida (OPC).

12 BRADLEY MARSHALL and JORDAN LUEBKEMANN,  
13 ESQUIRES, Earthjustice, 111 S. Martin Luther King Jr.  
14 Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32301; DANIELLE McMANAMON,  
15 ESQUIRE, Earthjustice, 4500 Biscayne Boulevard, Suite  
16 201, Miami, FL 33137; appearing on behalf of Florida  
17 Rising, Inc. (Florida Rising), League of United Latin  
18 American Citizens of Florida (LULAC), and Environmental  
19 Confederation of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ECOSWF).

20 TIMOTHY SPARKS, ESQUIRE, FPSC General  
21 Counsel's Office, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard,  
22 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850, appearing on behalf of the  
23 Florida Public Service Commission (Staff).

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: All right. Well, good  
3 morning, everybody. I think we are good to go. I  
4 think that we are ready to go ahead and get  
5 started.

6 Thank you all for attending. This is the  
7 Customer Hearing for the Florida Power & Light  
8 request for a rate adjustment.

9 Today's service hearing is an important part  
10 of the process and dedicating to the hearing to  
11 hear from you, the customer.

12 My name is Mike La Rosa. It is a privilege to  
13 be the Chairman of the Florida Public Service  
14 Commission. With me are two of my fellow  
15 Commissioners. Two others will be joining us here  
16 shortly, just got caught up in a little bit of  
17 traffic, but I will allow them to introduce  
18 themselves, starting to my left here with  
19 Commissioner Clark.

20 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

21 My name is Gary Clark. I want to say thank  
22 you to this community for allowing us to be here  
23 today. We look forward to hearing testimony from  
24 customers, from businesses about the potential  
25 impacts of the proposed increase on your bills.

1           We also look forward to hearing about your  
2           experience with Florida Power & Light, the quality  
3           of service that you have received. All of these  
4           are very important inputs that go into the  
5           decision-making process as we are reviewing this  
6           proposed increase. So we look forward to hearing  
7           your testimony today.

8           COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Thank you.  
9           It's a privilege to be back here. This is where I  
10          grew up, in Southwest Florida, so all of you are my  
11          neighbors.

12          And I just want to echo the comments of  
13          Commissioner Clark here. We really do take all of  
14          your comments into consideration as we review this  
15          decision. I -- my little shtick as well is I want  
16          to make sure that, you know, if you have more  
17          additional comments that you want to make, or your  
18          friends or family were not able to make it this  
19          morning, you are welcome to email, submit written  
20          comments to our offices, and we take those just  
21          like you being here today. So the opportunity is  
22          not missed if they are not here. There is still  
23          opportunity to submit your comments.

24          So thank you again for being here, and look  
25          forward to hearing from all of you.

1           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA:   Excellent.   Thank you very  
2           much, Commissioners.

3           As many of you noticed, there is a large  
4           screen to my right, to your left.   That is intended  
5           to be a scrolling screen with Spanish text for  
6           translation, if it's needed or necessary.   So there  
7           won't be any baseball games or football games  
8           played on that later.   I am sorry if you got  
9           excited.

10          And as my colleagues have mentioned,  
11          obviously, this is an important part the process  
12          for us to be able to hear directly from you, the  
13          customer, as we are going to start the hearing  
14          process throughout the summer, so I will talk a  
15          little bit more about that in a second.

16          Let's go ahead and get some technicalities out  
17          of the way, and I will start with staff if you can  
18          go ahead and please read the notice.

19          MR. SPARKS:   By notice issued May 14, 2025,  
20          this time and place has been sent for a Customer  
21          Service Hearing in Docket No. 20250011-EI.   The  
22          purpose of the service hearing is set forth fully  
23          in the notice.

24          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA:   Excellent.   Great.   Thank  
25          you.

1           Now let's move forward with taking appearances  
2           of the counsel. We will start with Florida Power &  
3           Light.

4           MS. BARNES: Good morning, Commissioners.  
5           Monica Barnes, appearing on behalf of Florida Power  
6           & Light. And I would also like to enter an  
7           appearance for John Burnett, our General Counsel.

8           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Excellent. Thank you.  
9           Let's go to LULAC.

10          MR. LUEBKEMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
11          Jordan Luebkekmann for Florida Rising, ECOSWF and  
12          LULAC. And I would like to also enter an  
13          appearance for Bradley Marshall and counsel Daniel  
14          McManamon who is here in the room with me.

15          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Office of Public Counsel.

16          MR. TRIERWEILER: Good morning. Walt  
17          Trierweiler, the Public Counsel.

18          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Excellent, thank you. And  
19          I know I threw you out of order, so sorry about  
20          that.

21          All right. Well, so thank you, counsel. And  
22          again, thank you all for participating today and  
23          sharing your experience and specifically the  
24          quality of service that you are having with FPL.

25          In August, there will be a more technical

1       hearing where the Commission will hear from  
2       witnesses about evidence within the case. I  
3       encourage you all to watch the hearing on our  
4       website, as many of you will -- it will help us for  
5       better understand, or for you to better understand  
6       how the process works and ultimately how we make  
7       our decisions in the case.

8               In addition to sharing your comments here, you  
9       can also provide written comments with additional  
10      material by paper mail or by email. The rate case  
11      overview includes instructions on how to provide  
12      written comments to the Commission. Please be rest  
13      assured that your written comments will be made  
14      available for us for review. And it should be this  
15      green paper that was available when you guys walked  
16      in.

17             If you have specific service or billing  
18      issues, employees from FPL are here to assist you.  
19      Commission staff is also present to answer any  
20      general questions about the rate case or the rate  
21      case process. If you didn't notice the tent that I  
22      saw that FPL has set out outside, they can help you  
23      there with any issues specific to billing or to  
24      service.

25             So before we hear from you, the customer, I



1           would like to allow a brief opening statement by  
2           the parties that are present here today. Parties,  
3           if we can please limit our statements to three  
4           minutes. There is a light here at the podium that,  
5           when the light is yellow, be aware, of course, that  
6           your time is coming short. And then when the light  
7           turns red, please try to wrap up your comments as  
8           best as possible.

9           Let's go ahead and start with FPL Ms. Barnes,  
10          you are up again.

11          MS. BARNES: Yes, thank you, Commissioner.

12          I would like to introduce Armando Pimentel,  
13          President and CEO of Florida Power & Light Company,  
14          who will deliver the remarks on behalf of the  
15          company.

16          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Excellent. Good luck with  
17          the feedback.

18          MR. PIMENTEL: Good morning. Thank you, Mr.  
19          Chairman and Commissioners. My name is Armando  
20          Pimentel. I am the President and CEO of Florida  
21          Power & Light Company. We are here because we have  
22          asked the Public Service Commission for new base  
23          rates beginning in 2026.

24          Let me begin by thanking our customers who  
25          have taken time to be here today to provide

1           comments. I am proud of the 9,000 FPL employees  
2           who work hard every day to provide the nation's  
3           best combination of high reliability, resiliency  
4           and low bills, but we can always be better, which  
5           is why your feedback is so important to us today.

6           FPL's mission is to deliver reliable  
7           electricity every single day, while keeping bills  
8           as low as possible. Today, FPL's service is 59  
9           percent more reliable than the national average,  
10          and our typical residential bill is lower than it  
11          was two decades ago, when adjusted for inflation.

12          This is the result of smart investments that  
13          we have made in a culture of continuous  
14          improvement. Our team works relentlessly to  
15          improve our service every day. By operating the  
16          most efficient utility in America, we save  
17          customers, a typical customer, \$24 a month on their  
18          bill. We have saved customers more than \$16  
19          billion in fuel costs by modernizing our fuel  
20          plants, which include natural gas, nuclear and  
21          solar generation. That's what our base rate is all  
22          about, continuing these smart investments to  
23          deliver reliable service, while enhancing  
24          resiliency and keeping bills as low as possible.

25          It's been four years since our last rate

1 request. Florida is growing fast. Florida's  
2 growing demand for power, making our grid more  
3 resilient to severe weather and delivering the  
4 outstanding service our customers expect will  
5 require significant amounts of new investment.  
6 Even with the proposed increase, FPL bills are  
7 expected to stay well below the national average.

8 While we work hard to keep bills low, we  
9 recognize some customers face challenges, and I  
10 know many in this community are still dealing with  
11 the aftermath of multiple storms which hit this  
12 area especially hard.

13 Our Vice-President of customer service, Dawn  
14 Nichols and her team, are always here to help. And  
15 customer advocates, Mr. Chairman, as you pointed  
16 out, are out side.

17 At FPL, customers always come first. We have  
18 let our customers know about these customer service  
19 hearings so that they can share their experiences  
20 with the company. We want to hear what we do well,  
21 and more importantly, what we can improve upon.

22 So thank you for participating, and thank you  
23 for the opportunity to serve you.

24 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

25 Office of Public Counsel.

1           MR. TRIERWEILER: Good morning. Welcome to  
2           your customer service hearing. I am Walt  
3           Trierweiler, the Public Counsel for the State of  
4           Florida. My office, the Office of Public Counsel,  
5           also known as OPC, was created 51 years ago by the  
6           Florida Legislature to give you a voice in these  
7           proceedings. My office serves the citizens of the  
8           state of Florida as an effective consumer advocate  
9           in utility cases and appeals that are originally  
10          brought before the Florida Public Service  
11          Commission.

12           Today, I want you to know that the Office of  
13          Public Counsel actively opposes the increases FPL  
14          has proposed in 2026 and 2027. Our theme  
15          affordability, and we argue, with the help of eight  
16          nationally respected expert witnesses, against all  
17          aspects of FPL's two rate increases, as well as the  
18          Tax Recovery Mechanism. We assert that these  
19          increases, and the proposed Tax Recovery Mechanism,  
20          will result in unjust, unfair and unreasonable  
21          rates for you.

22           I am not going to take the time to share  
23          everything that we are doing back in Tallahassee to  
24          resolve this case in your favor, but I do want you  
25          to be confident in the extensive discovery our

1 office is has conducted with FPL, the hours my team  
2 has devoted to studying thousands of pages of  
3 responsive documents from FPL, and the depositions  
4 of FPL witnesses that we have taken to identify  
5 reductions that should be made to FPL's request.

6 I also want you to be confident that your  
7 voice is a valuable part of this rate case. These  
8 rate cases have not yet been determined, and these  
9 Commissioners, who are traveling all over the state  
10 to hear from you from Miami to Pensacola, are here  
11 to listen to you. Please share your thoughts as  
12 clearly and persuasively as you can, because your  
13 sworn testimony will be considered by the  
14 Commission and the parties, both now and in the  
15 future, when the Commission examines all of the  
16 evidence before them and they approve only that  
17 portion of FPL's rate case increases that are  
18 reasonable, prudent and in the public interest.

19 I invite you to share the details of your  
20 experiences as a customer of FPL, and to share the  
21 personal impacts FPL's proposed rate increases will  
22 have upon you, your family, your friends and your  
23 business.

24 Do be mindful of the time so that your  
25 neighbors here may also have time to speak. And

1           just so that you know, right now we have 24  
2           customers signed up. I think that's a good number,  
3           something we can handle. Just be find mindful of  
4           the time, though. And if someone has already said  
5           something that you agree with and had intended to  
6           say, you can still step forward and say, ditto, or  
7           I agree with Marie Casas, or the man in the blue  
8           hat, and then add any the additional details that  
9           you may wish.

10           Thank you again for taking the time to be here  
11           today. We look forward to hearing from you.

12           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

13           LULAC.

14           MR. LUEBKEMANN: I will try to block the  
15           speaker if I can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16           Jordan Luebkekmann on behalf of Florida Rising,  
17           the League of United Latin American Citizens,  
18           better known as LULAC, and the Environmental  
19           Confederation of Southwest Florida, better known as  
20           ECOSWF.

21           Florida Rising, LULAC and ECOSWF are  
22           associations of mostly residential customers, and  
23           they are in this rate case because their members  
24           cannot afford FPL's \$9.8 billion rate increase.  
25           Too many Floridians are already of unable to afford

1       their electric bills, especially since FPL's last  
2       huge rate increase in 2021. And when I talk about  
3       bills, I mean the actual amount that comes out of  
4       your pockets each month, not some estimation based  
5       on rates.

6               For 2023, the latest year for which we have  
7       complete data, FPL's actual residential bills  
8       averaged to \$170 a month per residential customer.  
9       The national average at the time was \$132 a month,  
10      meaning FPL customers paid, on average, about \$450  
11      a year more than the national average. That made  
12      FPL the tenth most expensive residential bill in  
13      the country for that year among large utilities --  
14      among large investor-owned utilities.

15             Today, even as FPL asks for this rate  
16      increase, preliminary data for 2025 shows that the  
17      average FPL residential customer is on track to be  
18      paying about \$400 more per year than they were in  
19      2021.

20             The Public Counsel offered some very good  
21      reasons for why we also oppose this rate case. In  
22      the interest of time, I am not going to repeat what  
23      he said because I want to get to your testimony. I  
24      do just want to note before moving on, as a quick  
25      housekeeping matter, I know that FPL may have

1       reached out to some of you to ask you to come and  
2       support their rate case today with your testimony.  
3       You might be involved with an organization that  
4       receives money or dues from FPL or an affiliate, or  
5       that has FPL or an affiliate on your board. That  
6       is perfectly okay. It is just something that is  
7       worth noting for the record. So I would just ask  
8       that if that is true for you, that you go ahead and  
9       acknowledge that in your testimony so that we don't  
10      have to take more time for me to ask those  
11      questions on cross-examination.

12             And with that, thank you very much, Mr.  
13      Chairman. I look forward to hearing your  
14      testimony. Thank you.

15             CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Excellent. Great. Thank  
16      you, counsels.

17             Let's move on now. Are there any elected  
18      officials in the room? Not seeing -- okay, not  
19      seeing any. Then let's move on to the testimony  
20      portion, and we will, of course, hear from you, the  
21      customer.

22             Your comments will become part of the official  
23      record and, therefore, subject to  
24      cross-examination. You may be asked questions  
25      either by the parties or by one of us, as



1           Commissioners, but please, that's not intended to  
2           intimidate, just intended so that we are clear on  
3           the comments that are being shared.

4           For all guests who intend to testify and who  
5           are able to do so, will you please stand now and  
6           raise your right hand so I may swear you in?

7           Excellent.

8           (Whereupon, Chairman La Rosa administered the  
9           oath.)

10           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you. You may be  
11           seated.

12           All right. To make sure that you have and  
13           your neighbors have an equal opportunity to provide  
14           input, please limit your comments to three minutes.  
15           Please be mindful of the lights on the podium that  
16           I recognized earlier, that when the light turns  
17           red, please start to wrap up your comments if you  
18           can.

19           Lastly, we would like to ask that, please,  
20           turn off any cell phones or anything that might  
21           make any noise that might interrupt us throughout  
22           to the process.

23           Public Counsel will be assisting with us today  
24           here in the Service Hearing. Mr. Trierweiler will  
25           call the names of the speakers in the order in

1       which you have signed up. He is going to call two  
2       names at a time. So the next speaker, please be  
3       ready to approach the podium when the speaker  
4       before you has concluded. And, again, please make  
5       sure that you are listening to the person called  
6       before you so you are ready to jump up when your  
7       turn is called.

8               When it is your turn to speak, please state  
9       your name, your address and whether you are an FPL  
10      customer.

11             All right. We will now hear from the  
12      customers. OPC, will you please call the first two  
13      names?

14             MR. TRIERWEILER: Yes, Chairman.

15             All right. The first person to speak today is  
16      Robert Davies. And on deck, we have Jess Overcash  
17      and C.W. Blosser.

18             If the first person on deck would move forward  
19      and seat to the right or the left behind this  
20      speaker, behind the podium, we can get this thing  
21      and keep this thing moving, thank you.

22             Mr. Davies.

23                       PUBLIC COMMENT

24             MR. DAVIES: My name is Robert Davies, a  
25      lifelong resident of Florida, born here. FPL

1 customer. Have been for most of all my life. I  
2 live in Arcadia, rural area. Don't get involved in  
3 this stuff, but I did want to say something to that  
4 young man there, have you bought any eggs lately?

5 MR. LUEBKEMANN: I have.

6 MR. DAVIES: Have they gotten any better, the  
7 quality, since the price hike, or have you gone to  
8 McDonald's? Has your Big Mac gotten any better?

9 MR. LUEBKEMANN: I don't believe so.

10 MR. DAVIES: Okay. Well, FPL, I can tell you  
11 from a personal experience, has done a phenomenal  
12 job in my area of restoring power after an incident  
13 and prepping before the incident. Typically, they  
14 are out there this time of the year cutting trees  
15 making sure the lines aren't going to get taken  
16 down.

17 I can tell you that, you know, I am out there  
18 at three o'clock in the morning feeding my  
19 generator, and it's 110 degrees almost, which is  
20 feels like that, it's probably not. But in any  
21 event, when I see that power truck coming down the  
22 road, that's a welcome sight.

23 So, yeah, FPL has been great. They have been  
24 responsive customer. Service has always been good.  
25 Never had a problem with them. And if a rate

1           increase continues that kind of service and affords  
2           me not to have to get up at three o'clock in the  
3           morning to put gas in my generator and my air  
4           conditioner is running, albeit.

5           Thank you guys.

6           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your  
7           testimony.

8           MR. TRIERWEILER: Ms. Overcash.

9           MS. OVERCASH: Good morning. My name is Jess  
10          Overcash and I own Integrity Electric. We are  
11          based out of Charlotte County, so I live in Port  
12          Charlotte.

13          A lot of people don't realize that to do my  
14          job as an electrical contractor to repair your  
15          riser, replace your meter can or change your  
16          electrical panel, I actually need Florida Power &  
17          Light. I work with Nick Zapata and other project  
18          managers to schedule disconnect and reconnect  
19          appointments so that power is cut, my electricians  
20          can safely do the repair, whether that is  
21          preplanned or the result of an emergency. The  
22          municipality inspects the job and FPL reconnects  
23          all in one day with as little of inconvenience to  
24          the homeowner as possible.

25          While I am here to represent myself as a

1 business owner, I am also representing the  
2 Charlotte Desoto Building Industry Association. It  
3 is the largest building industry association in  
4 Southwest Florida, serving over 525 member  
5 companies.

6 In 2020, one of the biggest issues we had with  
7 FPL was communication. Jennifer Huber started  
8 working at FPL and introduced us to Charlotte  
9 Miller, who helped listen to some of our concerns.  
10 We helped set up weekly, monthly and quarterly  
11 meetings to help make new construction stay on the  
12 schedule. This platform has been incredibly  
13 helpful getting new homeowners into their homes.

14 If you think back to Hurricane Charley, in  
15 some areas we were without power for over six  
16 weeks. Hurricane Irma in 2017 was four weeks.  
17 Hurricane Ian, two weeks. And with all the storms  
18 last year, most of our community didn't lose power  
19 at all.

20 We applaud the extra efforts FPL has made in  
21 keeping our community glowing. We also understand  
22 these efforts come at a cost, and we must be  
23 willing to pay.

24 We support FPL and the rate proposal, and we  
25 look forward to their teamwork on new construction

1 and rebuilding after storms.

2 Does anybody have any questions?

3 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Seeing none, thank you for  
4 your testimony.

5 MR. TRIERWEILER: Chief Blosser, and on deck  
6 we have Brooke Ward and Solami Hernandez, please.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT

8 MR. BLOSSER: Good morning. I am C.W.  
9 Blosser, Fire Chief, Boca Grande Fire Department.  
10 Anybody that doesn't know, Boca Grande sits -- we  
11 sit out on the coast. We are a barrier island,  
12 just like all the rest of Southwest Florida, and I  
13 am here to advocate for our fire department, but I  
14 do live in Arcadia, Florida. My home address is  
15 2851 Southeast Oak Drive in Arcadia, just like the  
16 gentleman one or two people before me.

17 So we -- all of us in Southwest Florida, we  
18 have all been impacted by all those storms, storm  
19 after storm after storm, so the problem is  
20 recovery, but it's always great to be able to  
21 partner with Florida Power & Light. That process  
22 has become smooth, it's become efficient to get all  
23 of that power restored for all of these communities  
24 that get the power knocked out.

25 I advocate for the right increase. We as a

1 fire chief, as a person who has to run a budget and  
2 run a response agency, everything has gone up.  
3 Everything. Materials. Labor. Supplies. All  
4 that. It all has to be bought. It all has to be  
5 paid for. The money has to be found somewhere. So  
6 that's -- unfortunately, if you want that great  
7 service that Florida Power & Light delivers, you  
8 are going to have to pay for it.

9 Working with Florida Power & Light, my career  
10 spans 40 years -- I know you guys find that hard to  
11 believe, but it's 40 years that I have been doing  
12 this, and my first hurricane was Charley when I  
13 worked for the City of Arcadia. The service --  
14 although, the service was good, obviously, it was  
15 slower because we were learning. That service,  
16 that response has gotten better and better with  
17 time. The communication has gotten much better,  
18 and we are able to do our jobs more efficiently to  
19 work with Florida Power & Light, and all of the  
20 other response partners, to get things fixed back  
21 up.

22 You have to remember, there is also people who  
23 rely on electricity, not only for air conditioning,  
24 things of this nature, but our communications, and  
25 then people that are on, like, oxygen machines. We

1        had a real problem in Arcadia with our special  
2        needs folks in a shelter after Hurricane Charley.

3                So the response from Florida Power & Light is  
4        just -- is incredible now, as somebody that's seen  
5        over a long span. And it's not only just storm  
6        response, we also -- you know, we get hit with  
7        thunderstorms and different things coming off the  
8        coast all the time. We have different issues. We  
9        still have issues from the storms. We have things  
10       that are still melting down. That response is also  
11       tremendous, that care, the getting it done.

12               Ever once in a while, as a first responder, we  
13       have to rely on other people. It's kind of weird  
14       when we are the folks that are supposed to be able  
15       to get it done and we can't get it done because we  
16       can't control that electrical problem or that issue  
17       that's dangerous. So there are times when we have  
18       to rely on Florida Power & Light and, again, the  
19       ability to get things done and get to us, and get  
20       things taken care of in a timely manner is  
21       critical. Without that funding, without those  
22       materials, without those vehicles, without those  
23       people and that knowledge and expertise, that span,  
24       that timewave can get longer, and that could cause  
25       somebody down the road -- I think that light is



1           flashing, I don't know, but I appreciate your time.  
2           Thank you.

3                   CHAIRMAN LA ROSA:   Thank you for your  
4           testimony.

5                   MR. TRIERWEILER:   Brooke Ward.

6                   MS. WARD:   Yes.   Good morning.   My name is  
7           Brooke Ward.   I am a senior Florida organizer with  
8           Food & Water Watch.   I am driving here today from  
9           Largo, Florida.   I am not an FPL customer, but my  
10          organization represents 43,000 FPL customers, and I  
11          am here today to deliver a letter from 30 state  
12          organizations who are calling on the PSC to reject  
13          FPL's rate hike.   So I will read that into the  
14          record.

15                   Dear Governor DeSantis and the Florida Public  
16          Service Commission, we, the undersigned  
17          organizations write to urge the Florida Public  
18          Service Commission and DeSantis to reject Florida  
19          Power & Light's proposed nearly \$10 billion rate  
20          increase.   The largest in U.S. history.   This is  
21          coming at a time when communities are still  
22          recovering from devastating hurricanes and can't  
23          afford the burden of additional utility rate  
24          increases.

25                   In the past five years, FPL customers have

1 already seen bills rise by over \$400 annually.

2 Under the new rate hike request, households across  
3 Florida would pay at least 200 more annually for  
4 basic electricity by 2027, and potentially even  
5 more.

6 If the Florida PSC approves this rate hike,  
7 families, seniors and small businesses already  
8 struggling with high costs will be pushed even  
9 closer to financial crisis. Utilities dig into  
10 residents pockets enough, taking money away from  
11 families working hard to provide for their loved  
12 ones. They make customers pay for their fuel costs  
13 and any damages related to hurricanes further  
14 hiking up monthly payments to widen their profit  
15 margins.

16 FPL already receives one of the highest  
17 returns on equity in the country, yet they are now  
18 pushing for 11.9 percent, which is far above the  
19 national average of 9.6 percent.

20 While FPL's executives and shareholders are  
21 making records profits, Florida families are forced  
22 to limit AC use in the dead of summer to afford  
23 their bills. Floridians deserve better. The PSC  
24 is supposed to ensure safe, reliable and affordable  
25 utility service, not support unchecked corporate

1 profits.

2 In order to protect our communities, we urge  
3 you to act in the best interest of Floridians and  
4 reject FPL's rate hike request.

5 Signed Catalyst Miami, Central Florida Jobs  
6 With Justice, Climate Reality Project,  
7 Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship, Dump  
8 Duke, Earth Ethics, Elders Climate Action, Florida  
9 Council of Churches, Florida For All, Florida  
10 Rising, Florida Student Power, Food & Water Watch,  
11 Green Tent Circle, Hillsborough Affordable Energy  
12 Coalition, Labor Community Alliance of South  
13 Florida, League of Women Voters of Hillsborough and  
14 Pasco, Physicians of Social Responsibility,  
15 Democratic Socialists of America, Resident  
16 Consulting, Rethink Energy Florida, Sierra  
17 Club-Florida and multiple groups, Solar United  
18 Neighbors, Space Coast Audubon, Stone Crab  
19 Alliance, Tampa Bay Climate Alliance, the Cleo  
20 Institute.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

23 So since the letter was read into the record,  
24 I am assuming we don't need to enter that --

25 MS. WARD: I can give you the physical letter.

1           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you very much for  
2 your testimony.

3           MS. WARD: Thank you.

4           MR. TRIERWEILER: Ms. Hernandez.

5                           PUBLIC COMMENT

6           MS. HERNANDEZ: Yes. Good morning. My name  
7 is Solami Hernandez, and I live in 2454 Santa  
8 Barbara Boulevard, Apartment C, Naples, Florida,  
9 34116.

10           I am a Collier County resident here on behalf  
11 of family across Florida who are doing everything  
12 they can to stay afloat. We are juggling high  
13 rent, rising grocery prices, and still recovering  
14 from stronger and more frequent storms, and now FPL  
15 wants to raise our electricity bill by nearly 10  
16 billion.

17           If this is approved, it means paying at least  
18 \$200 more per year by 2028, but we are already  
19 paying more, over the past five years, like he  
20 mentioned, our bill has gone up over \$400. My own  
21 bill last summer was \$312 for just two months in a  
22 little apartment 1,000 square feet, two bedrooms,  
23 two baths. We barely fit in there.

24           I have my bill here that I can give to the  
25 record, and that was a really financial hardship

1           for me. I am the only person working in my  
2           household supporting my mother and my two sons.  
3           This bill for last -- this is the bill for last  
4           year. I can leave it here for the record. And I  
5           have it printed with me today as part of my  
6           testimony.

7                   I rent, so I cannot -- and as many people in  
8           my community, because we are a lower income  
9           underserved community in Golden Gate City, so I  
10          can't install energy efficient upgrades. My air  
11          conditioner is old, and I -- when it gets brutally  
12          hot, like last summer did, when I got in bill, we  
13          have no other choice but run the air conditioner.

14                   This is not a luxury. It's about staying safe  
15          and keep safe and healthy, and keeping my family  
16          the same way. This is not about numbers. It's  
17          about our homes, about our grandparents, about our  
18          children. It's about people turning off their air  
19          conditioner in the middle of the summer because  
20          they can't afford it. It's about neighbors being  
21          pushed closer to the edge like I feel I am.

22                   I am asking the Public Service Commission to  
23          do more to protect us as customers and reject this  
24          rate increase, and look for alternatives that don't  
25          make it harder for people like me. We need you to

1           safeguard the interest of Floridan, not  
2           infrastructure costs into consumers while  
3           shareholders seek record profits. That's not fair.  
4           That's not right, and everybody here knows it.

5           Electricity is a basic need. Our communities  
6           deserve to live with dignity, not to be forced to  
7           choose between keeping the lights on or buying  
8           their medications.

9           Thank you.

10          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

11          Walt -- Mr. Trierweiler, do you want to enter  
12          that into the record. I am a little bit sensitive  
13          to the information that's on it.

14          MS. HERNANDEZ: That's my electricity.

15          MR. TRIERWEILER: Okay. And do you have any  
16          of problem with having that entered into the  
17          record?

18          MS. HERNANDEZ: No, I can -- I can put it in.

19          MR. TRIERWEILER: Okay.

20          MS. HERNANDEZ: I mean, it took me four months  
21          to pay it with all the fees.

22          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: So let's do this, let's  
23          enter it in at the end, because I want to make sure  
24          that there is no personal information on there,  
25          someone can redact it.

1                   MR. TRIERWEILER: So for identification, it is  
2                   Exhibit 2 for the record.

3                   CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: We will come back and make  
4                   sure we enter it properly.

5                   (Whereupon, Exhibit No. 2 was marked for  
6                   identification.)

7                   CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Next up?

8                   MR. TRIERWEILER: Ms. Walters and -- excuse me  
9                   one second. On deck we have Robert Beville and Tom  
10                  Mueller.

11                  CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Excellent. Madam, you are  
12                  recognized when you are ready.

13                                   PUBLIC COMMENT

14                  MS. WALTERS: Thank you. Good morning. My  
15                  name is Myra Walters, and I currently reside in  
16                  Buckingham area of Ft. Myers, and I have resided in  
17                  Southwest Florida for nearly 40 years, and I  
18                  retired February 29th, 2020. A time that I do  
19                  remember as a retiree. I have to say I am  
20                  genuinely concerned when I hear about any rate  
21                  increases during this time of economic volatility.  
22                  However, I do support the current rate increases  
23                  proposed by FPL.

24                  An article published in the 2017-2018 issue of  
25                  Ecological Economics reports that in the future,

1 climate change and coastal development are expected  
2 to increase hurricane damage worldwide. However,  
3 estimating the magnitude of those increases is  
4 challenging due to substantial uncertainties about  
5 the amount by which climate change will alter the  
6 formation of hurricanes and increase sea levels in  
7 various locations.

8 Therefore, it is imperative that FPL take a  
9 proactive approach to anticipating the budget and  
10 preparing for future natural disasters. This  
11 proposed increase beginning year 2026 will do just  
12 that.

13 After Hurricanes Ian, Milton and Helene, from  
14 a community advisory board meeting, I learned that  
15 FPL had to use funds from their reserves to repair  
16 the damaged infrastructure to restore power to the  
17 impacted communities. This rate increase will also  
18 allow FPL to continue to research new ways to power  
19 our communities.

20 In closing, I support the rate increases  
21 proposed by FPL. It will allow them to be  
22 proactive when responding to natural disasters in  
23 the future and to seek out new ways to deliver  
24 reliable electricity to power our communities.

25 Thank you.



1                   CHAIRMAN LA ROSA:   Thank you.

2                   MR. TRIERWEILER:   Thank you for your  
3                   testimony.

4                   Robert Beville.

5                                   PUBLIC COMMENT

6                   MR. BEVILLE:   That would be me.   Thank you,  
7                   Chairman.   Thank you, Commissioners.   Thank you for  
8                   this process.   It proves that we are in a democracy  
9                   and it works well.

10                  As I look around the room here, I am going to  
11                  guess I am the oldest FPL customer in here, not by  
12                  age, but I was born in Miami in the '50s, so I have  
13                  been a customer for 70 years, I will let you know  
14                  that.   And I remember Reddy Kilowatt, and fondly  
15                  the little bitty Reddy Kilowatt.

16                  So when I decided I was going to speak here, I  
17                  didn't know what I wanted to talk about, so I went  
18                  back -- I moved here in 1976, and I am kind of a  
19                  geek when it comes to my finances, and I was able  
20                  to go back and use Quicken and look at all of my  
21                  utility bills, electric, water and cable.   Don't  
22                  get me started on that.   My electric bill -- and I  
23                  took a five-year period.   I moved in in 2004, right  
24                  after -- right before Hurricane Charley, and I  
25                  looked at my electric bill for a five-year period

1           to take out the highs and the lows when it comes to  
2           hot summers and cold winters. So in 2005 through  
3           2010, my average electric bill was \$198. And then  
4           I went back the five years prior to this, 2019 to  
5           '24, so I would get a full five years, and my  
6           electric bill was \$184 in average, an eight-percent  
7           decrease.

8           Now I had the same air conditioner. Up until  
9           2024, I was living alone. And for the last two  
10          years, I have had somebody living with me, and I do  
11          have a new air conditioner. And thank you, FPL, I  
12          have a -- I got a rebate on the air conditioner and  
13          the insulation I put in, so my bill will probably  
14          go down even further.

15          Cable. Cable in 2005, that same five-year  
16          period, averaged \$165. And if you would guess, it  
17          almost doubled. In 2024 it was \$326. I no longer  
18          have cable. I stream.

19          Lee County Utilities, my water bill, in 2005,  
20          was \$55 a month, and now it's about \$68 a month,  
21          some highs and lows, again, an increase of  
22          23 percent. So FPL, my bill went down over those  
23          periods, from 2005 to present, went down eight  
24          percent.

25          Something I can't want to say, too, for me to



1           job. Our community got flooded during Ian, and the  
2           response that FPL provided was amazing. They were  
3           there. We had our power back within a week after  
4           being under six feet of water, so we are very  
5           pleased many.

6                   On a profession level, I have worked for  
7           Covanta Energy, now Reworld, for the last 28 years.  
8           As you know, we take all of Lee County's trash and  
9           turn it into energy every day. Typically, on an  
10          average month, we will export over 30,000 megawatts  
11          of power. That means we provide enough power for  
12          30,000 homes at the 1,000 megawatts -- at a  
13          megawatt per home 1,000 kilowatts.

14                   I see the rates every day because our county  
15          that owns the power has a marketing company that  
16          sells the power that we produce for them every day.  
17          And I see the rates that are being paid by other  
18          utility companies what are buying our power, and I  
19          am proud to say we sell very little to FPL because  
20          they typically pay the least. And that's a good  
21          thing, because that means that our rates are among  
22          the lowest that there are.

23                   We deal with FPL every day because all of our  
24          power is input into the grid, and is exported out  
25          of the area to the company that is paying, or the

1 power company that is paying the most, typically  
2 not FPL. But we deal with FPL on a regular basis  
3 with our switchyard and with, you know, dealing  
4 with different situations on selling power and  
5 having power ready for them.

6 So on two notes, as a company, every company  
7 has increasing prices. I know from our own in the  
8 power generation industry, the amount that we are  
9 paying for pieces and parts to keep everything  
10 operating continuously go up. FPL, I know, has the  
11 same situation in dealing with pieces and parts  
12 that they have to buy for the generating equipment.  
13 So at the end of the day, you know, how a company  
14 cannot be expected to have some rate increase, and  
15 looking at the amount of increases that I have  
16 seen, it's marginal, especially considering the  
17 fuel that they have to buy.

18 I admire and really appreciate the amount of  
19 work that they are putting into looking at  
20 renewable resources in the form of different ways  
21 to produce energy, and are continuing to explore  
22 them. The fact that they have over 20 percent of  
23 their power being produced by nuclear power is  
24 amazing. Nuclear power is coming back big time, so  
25 very happy with that.

1           So I am definitely in support of Florida Power  
2           & Light's projected and proposed rate increase. I  
3           think it is necessary and very much warranted.

4           Thank you.

5           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you, sir. We have a  
6           quick question.

7           MR. MUELLER: Yes.

8           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Commissioner Clark.

9           COMMISSIONER CLARK: I just have a  
10          clarification. You mentioned the company you  
11          worked for produces 30,000 megawatts of power?

12          MR. MUELLER: A month, yes. We run the waste  
13          energy facility for Lee County, you know, and so I  
14          am seeing 1,000 garbage trucks a day, and we are  
15          turning that garbage into energy.

16          COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you.

17          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

18                           PUBLIC COMMENT

19          MR. ROSENBERGER: Hello. My name is Bennett  
20          Rosenberger. I am with Berkshire Bay Contractors.  
21          We are a commercial contractor mostly. We have a  
22          residential service department. We do of lots of  
23          shutdowns. We do anywhere from banks, to  
24          restaurants, to marinas, shortage units. We have  
25          shutdowns all the time.

1           I am here because Bryce took care of me. I  
2           was doing some work at Punta Gorda Airport. He  
3           made the job, we had two shutdowns at nighttime.  
4           He made it very easy for us. We wrote a quick  
5           letter to him thanking him for how easy this was.

6           We do a lot of work in Ft. Myers. I deal with  
7           Drayton Diggs mostly. I am on the phone probably  
8           three times a week with him. Our appointments have  
9           never been canceled. He makes it very easy for us  
10          to operate and for us to get power back on for the  
11          customers.

12          That's pretty much is it.

13          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you will for your  
14          testimony.

15          MR. ROSENBERGER: Thank you.

16          MR. TRIERWEILER: Marilynne Martin, and on  
17          deck we have Victor Rohe and Tracie Hornby.

18                          PUBLIC COMMENT

19          MS. MARTIN: Good morning. My name is  
20          Marilynne Martin. I came from Venice, Florida.  
21          Commissioners, one meeting on the west coast,  
22          thumbs down.

23          FPL rank and file has done a tremendous job  
24          over the last three years, we have been pummeled  
25          with storms, so I have no problem with that.

1           I came and drove an hour to advocate for the  
2           sick. If Art Graham was here, he would recognize  
3           me, okay. 10 years ago, 11 years ago, I advocated  
4           for the smart meters.

5           There is a population called electro  
6           sensitive, and they cannot tolerate. We accept  
7           EMI, right, electromagnetic interference. You work  
8           very hard at it at FPL, but our bodies are electric  
9           and there is a portion of this community, okay,  
10          that cannot tolerate it, okay. They need an analog  
11          meter.

12          And I will honest with you, for 10 years I  
13          have been getting calls, they try to get the  
14          analog off, and we make a lot of noise. We had  
15          J.R. Kelly, we had Susan Salsbury, West Palm folks,  
16          and they backed off, so thank you, but something  
17          has changed.

18          Last August, Sherry Anger (ph), who was on my  
19          petition who is very sick, and with other things,  
20          these peoples immune systems are crashing, okay.  
21          In the middle of surgery, you know, scheduled the  
22          surgery, couldn't have the surgery because of  
23          infection she couldn't clear, and then taking her  
24          analog, putting more stress on her. They took her  
25          analog. You know how she lives now? She has all



1 the circuit breakers are pretty much turned off  
2 except for a couple of things. I got another woman  
3 I don't know, Mary Soto over in Miami who basically  
4 eight months without electricity. And what I don't  
5 understand, okay, is that you have to read the  
6 meter, so what difference does it make?

7 I know they are going to tell you they don't  
8 make analogs anymore, and that may be true, but  
9 California has a mandated analog. You can get a  
10 refurbished one, okay. So for the sick we could,  
11 and I know we lost, you know, we don't have a  
12 mandated, but in your heart there is a component  
13 called compassion and empathy for others, okay.  
14 You can open it up. You don't need a legal  
15 document to tell you to do the right thing by  
16 people.

17 So I am asking you to leave the sick alone.  
18 We may be kicking the can, okay, maybe 10 years, 15  
19 years we don't have any working analogs, but we do  
20 now.

21 Let me give you a quote, because a lot of  
22 people gaslight. They say these people are  
23 mentally ill. This is Gro Harlem Brundtland. She  
24 was the Prime Minister Norway, former director of  
25 the World Health Organization, and she's a medical

1 doctor. And she was questioned on camera, okay.  
2 And she's says, unfortunately there is no doubt  
3 there are definitely negative effects of radiation  
4 in the devices.

5 And when asked if you are not taking it too  
6 seriously. She said, I can only hope -- she can't  
7 hold -- she's also electric sensitive. She can't  
8 hold the phone next to her head and it gives her a  
9 headache. And she said, well, this technology has  
10 had such an enormous breakthrough in society  
11 everywhere, it is almost unthinkable that no one  
12 would stop it for health reasons.

13 Every time I think of that, I say, we changed  
14 every curb in this country at tremendous cost for  
15 our disabled. We can't leave these people on  
16 analog? And Mary Soto over in Miami is telling me  
17 that basically your engineers -- and I think she's  
18 wrong. I think she misinterpreted it -- are  
19 zinging them from the street, that they are really  
20 a smart meter. So I need you to check that out,  
21 because I don't believe that's correct. I think  
22 they do read their meters, okay. But please put  
23 her analog back, let her have that, because there  
24 are people that have been locked up, too -- I am  
25 over time -- and have bars because they are very,

1           very sick. They have multiple chemical  
2           sensitivities and other things, and I don't want to  
3           -- I don't want to be a phone call that somebody  
4           has been shot, okay, so just let's do the kind  
5           thing. Let them live in their home, that's all  
6           they have, in peace, please.

7           Thank you.

8           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your  
9           testimony.

10          MR. TRIERWEILER: Victor Rohe.

11                           PUBLIC COMMENT

12          MR. ROHE: Good morning. My name is Vic Rohe.  
13          I live in Sarasota, Florida, and my comments here  
14          today are my own alone, and have nothing to do with  
15          any organizations I may be affiliated with.

16                 Right off the bat, I found in your Public  
17          Service Commission schedule is less than optimal.  
18          This is the only public hearing on the west coast  
19          of Florida. Is that an accident? Your schedule is  
20          very -- the last time I testified, which was about  
21          10 years ago, it was in Sarasota, but the whole  
22          west coast, this is the only one. So I think you  
23          need to add a few more of these meetings around the  
24          state. That's one.

25                 The second reason I am here is FPL is

1 responsible for me being here indirectly, because  
2 they came to my house and they wanted to take my  
3 analog meter away. Now, I was involved in fighting  
4 the analog meters about 10 years ago. We lost.  
5 But they allowed us to pay \$13 a month plus an  
6 initial fee and keep our meters. Now they want to  
7 do away with that. They want to take our analog  
8 meters. That's a problem. And that's -- so FPL is  
9 responsible for me being here today, all right.

10 But in doing a little research prior to this  
11 meeting, there is a question I want the Public  
12 Service Commission to ask before you grant any rate  
13 increase at all, and that question is this: What  
14 percentage of this increase will end up indirectly,  
15 but not that indirectly, in the pockets of the  
16 Chinese Communist Party? Now, that may seem like  
17 something that's totally unrelated, but it's not.

18 Here's an article from the Daily Mail that was  
19 published six days ago. And in the article, they  
20 talk about -- I will just read part of it.

21 "Sources last week told writers that  
22 unexplained communications equipment has been found  
23 in devices that play a key role in providing energy  
24 in United States. This equipment, experts say,  
25 could allow operators in China to tap into energy

1           infrastructure in the west and bypass firewalls,  
2           change settings, or even switch off devices  
3           remotely with potentially catastrophic  
4           consequences. At the flick of a switch, operators  
5           halfway around the world could hold the power to  
6           destabilize power grids, damage energy  
7           infrastructure and trigger widespread blackouts."

8           Before you grant this rate increase, you  
9           should see the amount of solar that FPL is  
10          installing. Those solar cells are made in China.  
11          Some of these devices, these communications  
12          devices, actually can be implanted in your solar  
13          cells and more importantly, in the large  
14          transformers and inverters that convert that power  
15          and put it onto the grid.

16          All right. This is a big problem. But what's  
17          their underlying genesis of this whole thing? It's  
18          the anthropomorphic global warming scam that's been  
19          sold to people.

20          Now, solar generation basically is about five  
21          times as expensive as traditional -- as traditional  
22          generation, right. So when you -- it's like with  
23          your insurance rate. If the insurance company can  
24          charge five times as much rates, they are going to  
25          get the same percentage, another five percent,

1           their profits are going to increase by a five  
2           times.

3           So that's the end of my comments today, but  
4           please take a look at this issue, because if  
5           somebody -- if for some political reason someone  
6           can bring down the grid, we have a problem.

7           Thank you very much.

8           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your  
9           testimony.

10          MR. TRIERWEILER: Tracie Hornby, and on deck  
11          we have Brandon Miller and Marc Rolileary.

12                           PUBLIC COMMENT

13          MR. HORNBY: Thank you. I am Tracie Hornby.  
14          I live -- I am a resident of Lee County, Ft. Myers,  
15          Florida, and I thank you for the chance and the  
16          opportunity to speak today.

17                 I have been in my current home with FPL  
18          electric service for over 20 years, so I have a  
19          history, as most of these folks have relayed  
20          earlier. In this 20 years, it is my experience  
21          that there about been significant improvements in  
22          the performance of the electric system serving my  
23          home and substantial improvements in FPL's ability  
24          to restore power after hurricanes, a very similar  
25          story, but what is apparent to me is it appears the

1           efforts that FPL has made in the past and is  
2           looking forward to making in the future to  
3           strengthen their electric grid are actually  
4           working.

5           We used to experience several major  
6           interruptions and multiple small power outages. As  
7           of today, the last power interruption that I have  
8           experienced over three years. And the small  
9           interruptions are limited to severe storms in the  
10          summertime.

11          I would also like to relay my experience with  
12          FPL's hurricane response. Looking back over the  
13          number of hurricanes impacting our home, Hurricane  
14          Charley through Irma in 2017 as, again, most of  
15          these folks have mentioned, we averaged about two  
16          weeks without electric service. Even our home was  
17          not damaged at all in that timeframe.

18          Compare that to the most recent hurricanes  
19          impacting our home, Hurricane Ian, where our home  
20          did suffer a lot of damage, we were only without  
21          power for about four days. And Hurricane Milton,  
22          where the conditions required us to actually  
23          evacuate, we were able to watch remotely through  
24          our security cameras, because we never lost power,  
25          the water rise and rise and rise, and thankfully

1 not get no into our home, and recede, because we  
2 did have power that entire time.

3 Making our way home after evacuating after  
4 these hurricanes, my husband and I both remarked as  
5 we saw the absolutely wonderful sight of the poles  
6 standing upright, not leaning, and most of their  
7 equipment intact, that it appeared, again, that the  
8 strengthening that has been done to the grid has  
9 actually been working.

10 The recent experience that I am relaying here  
11 demonstrates that FPL's programs to strengthen the  
12 grid have not only been executed well, but have  
13 delivered the desired results that they were after,  
14 preventing longer power outages after storms and  
15 improving our general everyday electric service.

16 FPL has a great track record of requesting  
17 increases, we know that, but are have also using  
18 the funds for the programs that improve service to  
19 their customer while staying focused on the cost of  
20 the service and our -- keeping our bills low.

21 I have been on FPL's website. I also use  
22 their app, as the gentleman before me did, which  
23 the app -- I use the app for the information today,  
24 but also it's very useful every day as well. But I  
25 was able to get all the info I needed to go back to



1           the website to understand what the dollar impact of  
2           this rate request would be on my bill. So if  
3           correct, I will see an increase of about \$6.50 a  
4           month, and about \$78 a year over the next four  
5           years.

6                       So based on FPL's previous track record and  
7           the forecast of more intense storms in the future,  
8           I would support this rate increase and look forward  
9           to seeing continued improvements in my service in  
10          the future.

11                      Thank you.

12                      CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your  
13          testimony.

14                      Mr. Miller, you are recognized when you are  
15          ready.

16                                      PUBLIC COMMENT

17                      MR. MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good  
18          morning, everyone.

19                      My name is Brandon Miller. I live in Estero,  
20          Florida, 32928 is my ZIP Code. I am a current  
21          customer, but that was not always the case. I am  
22          here to speak in support of FPL's rates increase,  
23          and I do so for three reasons.

24                      First, the cost of everything is increasing.  
25          I have seen it. You have seen it. Everyone in

1 every industry has seen it. It is not fair nor  
2 economically possible to operate in an environment  
3 where your average revenue per user stays the same  
4 by your expenses on materials, labor, et cetera  
5 increases.

6 Secondly, I just got back from a midwestern  
7 state. Go travel else where and look around at all  
8 the poles and the lines. They look like twigs  
9 ready to snap. I recognize they have different  
10 weather events, but nowhere is completely immune to  
11 major severe weather. Down here, those types of  
12 poles are almost nonexistent. You can see the  
13 investments being made literally in front of our  
14 eyes.

15 Third, and most important, I have seen the  
16 results of the mitigation response and recovery  
17 investments that FPL talks about. It's not just  
18 words. I am originally from Tallahassee, and was  
19 still living there during Hurricane Irma. I know a  
20 few of you live in Tallahassee, or have family in  
21 Tallahassee. It first made landfall as a Category  
22 4 storm, well over 500 miles away from my apartment  
23 in Tallahassee, yet I lost power for a week, had  
24 zero communication from Tallahassee utilities, and  
25 still had astronomically high rates.

1           For anyone who has paid a utility bill in  
2           Tallahassee, you know exactly what I mean. And  
3           after hearing some of the speakers talk about their  
4           FPL bills, I wish, I really wish I had brought a  
5           City of Tallahassee bill with me.

6           Fast forward to September of 2022, Hurricane  
7           Ian made landfall about 30 miles away from me from  
8           where I lived in Bonita Springs. I saw trees  
9           bending in ways they are not meant to bend.

10          Following the storm, I got multiple daily  
11          updates from FPL's app, and about 48 hours later, I  
12          got my power back. I am going to read that  
13          sentence again. Multiple updates from FPL's app,  
14          and about 48 hours later I got my power back.

15          Think about that visual. A government run  
16          utility, of which I am sure many in this room  
17          support bigger government, failed me. They brought  
18          me zero comfort and still charged me an arm and a  
19          kidney. FPL invested in their infrastructure.  
20          They invested in their people, and they invested in  
21          our community. Allow them to keep making those  
22          investments. The risk of severe weather events is  
23          high. In those hurricanes, do you want power back  
24          quickly to communicate and be there for your family  
25          or force FPL to slow roll restoration. That is our

1 choice. Thank you.

2 Really quickly, remember what life was like  
3 prior to Hurricane Michael that hit the Panhandle  
4 in 2018. It's much different in today's world.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your  
7 testimony.

8 MR. TRIERWEILER: Marc, is it Rolileary?

9 PUBLIC COMMENT

10 MR. ROULEAU: I will pronounce my name is a  
11 second.

12 Thank you, Commissioners, for the opportunity  
13 to speak. My name is Marc Rouleau. I am the Chief  
14 Facilities Officer for Collier County Public  
15 Schools.

16 FPL is proposing increases to its base  
17 electric rates beginning in January 2026. The  
18 proposed rates impact Collier County Public Schools  
19 at the end of the calendar years as follows:

20 In 2026, FPL's proposing a 17.8 percent  
21 increase. That's equivalent to about \$2 million  
22 increase for Collier County Public Schools. This  
23 is equivalent to 34 teaching positions.

24 In 2027, they are proposing a rate increase of  
25 5.8 percent, which is equivalent to about 400 --

1           744,000. That's 13 teaching positions.

2           In 2028, about a .7 percent increase. That's  
3           about \$96,000 increase for Collier County Public  
4           Schools. That's a little bit more than  
5           one-and-a-half teaching positions.

6           In 2029, the one-percent increase rate  
7           proposed is equivalent to about \$143,000, and  
8           that's equivalent to about two teaching positions.

9           So over a total four-year period, the base  
10          rate increase is about \$3 million for Collier  
11          County Public Schools, and that's equivalent to  
12          about 51 teaching positions.

13          Collier County Public Schools' electric bills  
14          are paid like all school districts in Florida, with  
15          its operational budget. This is the same budget  
16          that pays teachers salaries, and the same budget is  
17          used for teacher raises. CCPS, Collier County  
18          Public Schools, has more than 3,200 teachers. And  
19          since 2022, Collier County Public Schools has since  
20          increased teacher annual pay raises from -- or pay  
21          from \$47,728 a year to 57,000 a year.

22          CCPS has been working aggressively to ensure  
23          its teachers pay attracts and retains the best  
24          teachers. FPL proposes -- FPL's proposed increase  
25          electric rates at such a level it will impact

1 CCPS's ability to continue to offer the same  
2 teacher pay raises.

3 If these rates go into effect, teachers will  
4 experience double jeopardy. Increased electric  
5 rates will impact them financially at home and at  
6 work. Collier County Public Schools is asking the  
7 Public Service Commission to disapprove FPL's  
8 proposed electric rate increase, Collier County  
9 Public Schools is proposing an annual electric rate  
10 increase that does not exceeds the CPI's increases.  
11 This would be less impactful to CCPS's teachers.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your  
14 testimony.

15 MR. TRIERWEILER: John Antonacci.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT

17 MR. ANTONACCI: Good morning, Commissioners,  
18 and thank you for the opportunity to speak with you  
19 today. My name is John Antonacci, and I am the  
20 Chief Financial Officer for Collier County Public  
21 Schools. I am here today along with Mr. Rouleau on  
22 behalf of our school district to share our concerns  
23 regarding Florida Power & Light's proposed  
24 four-year rate plan and potential impact it would  
25 have on our community, which includes our students,

1           staff and taxpayers.

2           Collier County Public Schools operates 54  
3           schools across more than 2,300 square miles,  
4           serving approximately 50,000 students, and  
5           employing 7,000 staff members. We are proud to be  
6           the largest employer in Collier County.

7           Let me begin by acknowledging that we  
8           understand the pressures FPL faces. We recognize  
9           that operating costs have increased, and that some  
10          level of rate adjustment may be necessary to ensure  
11          the continued reliability of our energy system.  
12          However, the magnitude of the proposed rate  
13          increase is deeply concerning. The plan includes a  
14          17.86 percent increase in electricity rates next  
15          year alone. For Collier County Public Schools,  
16          this translates to an estimated two million in  
17          additional costs annually.

18          To put that into perspective, two million is  
19          equivalent to the cost of 34 teachers. That's 34  
20          educators who could otherwise be working directly  
21          with our students. These dollars could be used to  
22          enhance classroom instruction, raise teacher  
23          salaries or invest in vital academic programs.

24          Unfortunately, state education funding is not  
25          increasing at a pace that allows us to absorb such

1           a substantial utility rate hike. School districts  
2           operate under tight budget constraints, and  
3           unfunded increases of this scale will inevitably  
4           divert resources away from the classroom.

5           On behalf of Collier County Public Schools, I  
6           respectfully request the Commission to consider a  
7           lower more gradual rate adjustment to the proposed  
8           four-year rate plan, one that maintains energy  
9           reliability without placing undo burden on our  
10          schools and community. We remain committed to  
11          being responsible stewards of taxpayer resources.  
12          Our mission is to educate the next generation, and  
13          we ask that this rate plan not make that mission  
14          more difficult.

15          Thank you again for the opportunity to speak  
16          with you today, and for your thoughtful  
17          consideration.

18                 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

19                 MR. TRIERWEILER: All right. We have Troy  
20          Bolivar, and followed by Ashley Jones on deck and  
21          Ms. Pears.

22                         PUBLIC COMMENT

23                 MR. BOLIVAR: Good morning. My name is Troy  
24          Bolivar. I am the Vice-President of Southwest  
25          Florida, Inc. We are a regional Chamber of



1 Commerce. We serve more than 5,000 businesses in  
2 Lee, Charlotte and Collier Counties. We are an FPL  
3 customer, and we are located in Estero.

4 Data centers and the AI industries they  
5 support have the potential to bring enormous  
6 economic benefits to our community. Attracting  
7 these businesses is a key strategic goal for our  
8 region. Historically, Florida has not been on the  
9 list of multi-billion dollar data center projects  
10 primarily due to concerns about hurricane related  
11 downfalls.

12 Today, FPL has one of the most reliable  
13 distribution networks in the country. Importantly,  
14 FPL has achieved this while keeping electricity  
15 rates nationally competitive. This matters a great  
16 deal.

17 Energy is the largest operating cost for data  
18 centers. Competitive rates and strong grid  
19 reliability are the top factors when these  
20 companies chooses there relocation. Communities  
21 that offer both will see major investment, job  
22 creation and increased tax revenue.

23 As you consider energy policy for the state,  
24 we ask you to keep this in mind. Please ensure  
25 that our rates and rate structure remain fair for

1           our customers, but also competitive to attract data  
2           centers and economic growth they bring to Florida.

3           Thank you.

4           MR. TRIERWEILER: Ashley Jones.

5                           PUBLIC COMMENT

6           MS. JONES: Good morning, Commissioners. My  
7           name is Ashley Jones, and I am speaking today in  
8           support of Florida Power & Light's proposed  
9           2026-2029 base rate plan. I have been a FPL  
10          customer since 2014. I live in Lee County, ZIP  
11          Code being 34135, and I have the pleasure of  
12          working in Collier County in ZIP Code 34109.

13          I serve as the Community Resiliency and  
14          Disaster Specialist for United Way of Collier and  
15          the Keys. Florida Power & Light has shown a strong  
16          and sustained commitment to delivering reliable,  
17          affordable power to more than 12 million Floridians  
18          in high risk disaster prone areas like ours. In  
19          the aftermaths of hurricanes, their rapid  
20          restoration efforts and investments in resilient  
21          infrastructure have proven invaluable to our  
22          communities.

23          I have witnessed firsthand how FPL shows up,  
24          not just as a utility provider, but as a proactive  
25          and compassionate community partner. I was honored

1 to join Florida Power & Light in Washington, DC,  
2 for LIHEAP Action Day, where we met with federal  
3 law makers to advocate for increased spending for  
4 the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.  
5 That experience reaffirmed my belief that Florida  
6 Power & Light is deeply committed to the well-being  
7 of its customers, especially ALICE households,  
8 those who are asset limited, income constrained and  
9 employed. What sets Florida Power & Light apart is  
10 its use of ALICE income thresholds, not the federal  
11 poverty level, to qualify households for assistance  
12 through its Care to Share Program.

13 This is critical. Federal guidelines are  
14 often outdated and a fail to reflect Florida's  
15 actual cost of living. Using ALICE standards,  
16 Florida Power & Light recognizes the financial  
17 hardship experienced by working families who may  
18 not qualify for traditional aid but still struggle  
19 to pay essentials, including energy.

20 Programs like Care to Share offer up to \$500  
21 in utility bill assistance annually, providing  
22 critical relief to households at risk of  
23 disconnection. Following the devastation of  
24 Hurricane Ian, Florida Power & Light expanded its  
25 support by offering up to \$2,000 for essential

1 electric repairs, a lifeline for families working  
2 to recover from disaster.

3 I have had the privilege of helping clients  
4 access this assistance during times of crisis,  
5 whether they were facing immediate shutoff or  
6 living in unsafe conditions. In many cases, it was  
7 the only resource that allowed them to remain  
8 safely in their homes with restored power.

9 These investments have done more than  
10 reconnect homes to electricity. They have helped  
11 families transition out of emergency shelters and  
12 temporary hotels, and return to sustainability --  
13 stability.

14 Getting people back into their homes restores  
15 dignity, reduces pressure on the social safety net  
16 and accelerates community recovery. It allows  
17 children to return to school routines, parents to  
18 reenter the workforce, and households to reclaim  
19 their independence. This is the kind of impact of  
20 that transforms disaster response into long-term  
21 resilience.

22 Florida Power & Light's 2026-2029 base rate  
23 proposal builds on that legacy of practical  
24 people-centered investment. It enables the company  
25 to modernize the grid, expand renewable energy and

1           strengthen storm resilience, all while keeping  
2           customers' bills below the national average.  
3           There aren't abstract upgrades. They represent  
4           stability and piece of mind for millions of  
5           Floridians.

6           I respectfully urge the Commission to approve  
7           this plan. It reflects a thoughtful balance  
8           between critical infrastructure needs and  
9           meaningful support for everyday customers,  
10          especially ALICE families who represent the  
11          backbone of our workforce and communities.

12          During times of disaster, Florida Power &  
13          Light linemen are considered heroes. And also to be  
14          transparent for the gentleman, some employees of  
15          Florida Power & Light are involved in our workplace  
16          campaign.

17          That is it for me. Thank you so very much  
18          today.

19          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

20          MR. TRIERWEILER: Lucienne Pears, and on deck  
21          we have Monica Lopez and Cecil Wray.

22                               PUBLIC COMMENT

23          MS. PEARS: Thank you, sir. Good morning,  
24          Commissioners, Mr. Chair. Thank you for the  
25          opportunity to be with you this morning.

1           My name is Lucienne Pears. I am a 25-year  
2           customer of Florida Power & Light. And in my  
3           professional career, I serve as the Vice-President  
4           of Economic Development of Badcock Ranch, and I  
5           would like to offer some comments about the quality  
6           of service that FPL provides on both of these  
7           experiences that I happen to have.

8           So collaboration with FPL has been absolutely  
9           foundational to the success of Babcock Ranch.  
10          Florida Power & Light Company embraced our vision  
11          of building a smart, resilient and forward-thinking  
12          community. Without FPL and their partnership,  
13          Babcock Ranch would not be able to exist today.  
14          Their investments in smart grid technology, solar  
15          generation and hardened infrastructure are crucial  
16          in making that vision the reality that it is today.

17          That performance, as you heard from many of  
18          the folks that testified before me, was put to the  
19          test with what felt like, to us at Babcock, the  
20          entire world watching. That was Hurricane Ian.

21          Some of you have may not realize that  
22          Hurricane Ian was the second major hurricane to hit  
23          Babcock Ranch, and as I stand before you today, we  
24          have three under our belt. And the performance of  
25          Florida Power & Light, their grid, their

1        infrastructure, their technologies was absolutely  
2        critical in saving lives and saving investments  
3        from further destruction.

4                As we know, there was widespread destruction  
5        across Southwest Florida, and FPL's grid and  
6        infrastructure maintained the power throughout that  
7        storm.

8                So to give you a little bit of an example. We  
9        have 13,000 residents at Babcock Ranch today, and  
10       there were that many there during Hurricane Milton.  
11       Those residents were able to shelter in place in  
12       their homes because those homes are built  
13       resiliently and the power is resilient.

14               In addition, we were able to house over 2,100  
15       evacuees from the surrounding region at Babcock  
16       Ranch. So that is 15,000 lives saved, protected  
17       from the storm, all as a result of the  
18       collaboration and partnership that we have with  
19       FPL. And that is just a small fraction, as we all  
20       know, of the storms that affect the state on a  
21       year-by-year basis.

22               And this is not at all by chance. We just  
23       didn't get happily lucky. This was the result of  
24       years of intentional planning between our teams.  
25       That storm-hardened grid I cannot emphasize enough,

1       which includes underground utilities, and their  
2       rapid response capabilities. I would argue that  
3       there are states across this great nation that  
4       would beg to have a collaborative partner that  
5       exemplifies the model that FPL shares and  
6       exemplifies in disaster response.

7               It's not just about the investments. It's  
8       about the strong communication and the customer  
9       service. FPL is consistently responsive. When you  
10      are building a new city with 20,000 homes, six  
11      million square feet of commercial, there are a lot  
12      of opportunities to collaborate with your utility  
13      partner. They show up every day, and they are  
14      always committed to a solution. We are always  
15      about big hairy audacious goals. How can we  
16      improve the living condition for generations going  
17      forward? And we are very proud that FPL is always  
18      at the table working on those collaborative ideas  
19      for how can we continue to improve the situation  
20      here in Florida for all of our residents.

21              FPL investments in clean energy, battery  
22      storage, grid modernization align with our mission,  
23      and they enhance Florida's competitiveness. Their  
24      leadership in renewables not only supports  
25      environmental stewardship, but also economic growth



1           by attracting forward-looking businesses and  
2           residents to this great state.

3           In our professional experience, and in my  
4           personal opinion, the level of service, reliability  
5           and innovation that FPL delivers, especially in  
6           disaster readiness and clean energy deployment,  
7           represents a strong value for Florida's ratepayers.  
8           The performance during critical moments speaks  
9           volumes about the long-term value of their  
10          investments in infrastructure.

11          On a personal note, I can say, after working  
12          with the Florida Power & Light team for almost two  
13          decades, some of the first calls that I get after a  
14          storm are from their team that I have had the  
15          pleasure of working with. They think of us first  
16          as a person and then as a customer.

17          Thank you very much for your time this  
18          morning.

19          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

20          MR. TRIERWEILER: Monica Lopez, Cecil Wray and  
21          then Ray Piacente.

22                               PUBLIC COMMENT

23          MS. LOPEZ: Hi, everyone. I appreciate  
24          hearing all of the remarks that were before me.

25          My name is Monica Lopez, and I am the

1           Community Advocate for the families and residents  
2           of Harlem Heights. I am stationed at The Heights  
3           Center, and I would like to recognize Ms. Charlotte  
4           Miller and Ms. Jennifer Huber. They have been  
5           wonderful and exceptional to work with through FPL,  
6           and they have given me the opportunity to share  
7           about the success of the Energy Fair that we hosted  
8           at The Heights Center back in March.

9           And I would like to thank the Board of  
10          Commissioners, I understand it's a five-person  
11          board, correct?

12          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yes.

13          MS. LOPEZ: Okay. I believe that God divinely  
14          appoints leaders, and not just in our government,  
15          but within companies to be appointed, not -- I  
16          understand that Governor DeSantis appointed you  
17          specifically, but ultimately from the God of all  
18          ages, and so I trust that, especially relating to  
19          this rate increase, that you would use wisdom and  
20          discernment. And I pray that you would use  
21          fairness and would do that justly.

22          And I wanted to speak a little bit about the  
23          success of the Energy Fair in March. One of my  
24          greatest assignments as a community advocate is to  
25          break the narrative that Harlem Heights is a

1 underserved community. And I am the remnant of a  
2 long-term recovery operation for two years helping  
3 rebuild 173 homes, and I believe that our  
4 neighborhood is highly favored. And I really  
5 appreciated partnering with FPL in promoting their  
6 Energy to Save program. That's giving the families  
7 an opportunity to take charge of their electric  
8 bill and learn ways that they can conserve energy.

9 I appreciated the technicians that came and  
10 did the in-home evaluations and helped families  
11 understand the benefits of the retrofits and some  
12 of the upgrades that they could have.

13 And about 40 percent of the families in Harlem  
14 Heights live at or below the poverty level, and so,  
15 you know, having cost be something that's addressed  
16 to them, it was really helpful for them to have a  
17 breakdown of their bill and how they can track and  
18 monitor how they spend, and where it's going. So  
19 thank you for that.

20 And personally, I am a member of an emergency  
21 response team, and I understand that after a  
22 disaster, there is triage, and you have to have  
23 priority in order to facilitate the needs of  
24 communities, and we share an area where FPL utility  
25 trucks are staged. And in Harlem Heights, you

1 know, again, the narrative is that we are  
2 underserved, and I want to break that. And if  
3 there is a way that I could open the channels of  
4 communication with FPL, when we don't have power in  
5 Harlem after a storm, and we see FPL trucks come in  
6 and out and be parked and deployed there, I would  
7 really love the opportunity to know where they are  
8 going and why so that there would be an awareness  
9 to the community, and they would have a better  
10 understanding of why FPL is going different places  
11 if not Harlem. I will put my cards on the table so  
12 if anybody can get back to me about that, that  
13 would be lovely.

14 Thank you for this time.

15 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your  
16 testimony.

17 MR. TRIERWEILER: Cecil Wray.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT

19 MR. WRAY: Good morning. My name is Cecil  
20 Wray. I am an AARP advocate. I am also a customer  
21 residing in Palm Beach County.

22 Thank you for allowing us to voice our opinion  
23 on this rate increase. We understand that being in  
24 business means profit. Our concern is when profit  
25 becomes greed, and quite often, at the expense of

1           the less fortunate. They get hit with increase,  
2           businesses also get hit with increase. However,  
3           the huge difference is that businesses pass  
4           increase on to their customers, many of whom fall  
5           in the category of poor and less fortunate,  
6           allowing the energy burden on struggled household  
7           to be a great concern and at the highest priority,  
8           not lining the pockets of FPL.

9           Let's make fair rates and reasonable profit  
10          for all. The less fortunate and the poor should  
11          not be required to empty their pockets by running  
12          the risk of depriving themselves of other  
13          essentials, like health care and food, and many  
14          others. So get your increase, but the amount you  
15          are seeking, if granted, would be a heavy burden  
16          for many, especially the poor and less fortunate.

17          Again, thank you on behalf of AARP advocates.

18          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your  
19          testimony.

20          MR. TRIERWEILER: Ray Piacente, and on deck we  
21          have Jaha Cumming and Karen Ryan.

22          Do we have Ray? It looks like Ray has stepped  
23          out. Is that Jaha or Jaha Cumming?

24                               PUBLIC COMMENT

25          MR. CUMMINGS: Yes. Yes.

1                   MR. TRIERWEILER:   Sorry.

2                   MR. CUMMINGS:   My name is Jaha Cummings.   I am  
3                   a resident of Punta Gorda, Florida.   Good morning,  
4                   everybody.

5                   As president of Charlotte Desoto Building  
6                   Industry Association and a former disaster recovery  
7                   coordinator for the Regional Planning Council of  
8                   Southwest Florida, it's my honor to speak to you  
9                   today in support of FPL's rate increase.   In  
10                  support of a partner whose work is critical not  
11                  only to our daily lives, but to our recover when  
12                  disaster strikes.

13                  In the building industry, we understand the  
14                  importance of resilience.   We design homes and  
15                  structures to withstand Florida's storms.   But when  
16                  the wind subside and the skies clear, it's the  
17                  restoration of power, and with it, the restoration  
18                  of hope that brings communities back to life.   This  
19                  is where FPL shines.

20                  Time and time again, FPL has demonstrated  
21                  unwavering commitment to getting back power to our  
22                  homes, businesses, construction sites and critical  
23                  services quickly and safely.   Whether in the wake  
24                  of hurricane or during local outages, their crews  
25                  are often the first visible sign that help has

1 arrived. Working around the clock, often in  
2 hazardous conditions to reconnect and restore  
3 normalcy.

4 Their pre-storm preparation and post-storm  
5 response have set a national standard. As a  
6 community that has experienced major storms, we  
7 have seen firsthand how rapid power restoration is  
8 essential, not only for comfort, but for also  
9 economic continuity, public safety, and the  
10 confidence of residents and workforce.

11 FPL is more than a utility. It's a partner  
12 our region's growth, a pillar in our disaster  
13 response infrastructure and public trust. They  
14 work collaboratively with local officials,  
15 emergency operations and associations like ours to  
16 ensure that our communities bounce back stronger  
17 and smarter after each challenge.

18 And on behalf of the Charlotte Desoto Building  
19 Industry Association I thank FPL for their tireless  
20 efforts and innovation in grid excellence, and the  
21 enduring commitment to serving our communities with  
22 excellence and integrity.

23 And lastly, on a personal note, we recently  
24 preserved one of the only two last two vernacular  
25 structures in our historic district, it was FPL

1           that actually made that possible. It was working  
2           with them that we actually were able to save our  
3           history, so let us continue to build and rebuild  
4           together. Thank you very much.

5           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your  
6           testimony.

7                               PUBLIC COMMENT

8           MS. RYAN: Good morning, and thanks for the  
9           opportunity to speak. My name is Karen Ryan, and I  
10          am a resident of Ft. Myers and a customer of FPL  
11          for 35 years. I also work for Southwest Florida's  
12          Electric Cooperative, and I wanted to take just a  
13          moment to acknowledge the high level of service  
14          that FPL has provided to me of over the years.

15          From my experience, as a 35-year customer, the  
16          reliability and consistency of our electric service  
17          has been very good. I very rarely experience an  
18          outage. And when an issue does occur, it's  
19          addressed promptly and professionally, as you have  
20          heard from a lot of people this morning.

21          We depend on reliable electricity for the  
22          well-being of our community, and for the day-to-day  
23          lives of residents like me. It's something I don't  
24          take for granted because I know what it takes  
25          behind the scenes to have this piece of mind.



1           As FPL considers a potential rate increase, I  
2           am confident that decisions and strategy they are  
3           considering are continued on the commitment to  
4           quality and reliability that we rely upon.

5           Look, no one wants higher cost, we just don't,  
6           until is goings wrong. I believe most of us  
7           understand the importance of investing in the  
8           electric system to proactively prevent things from  
9           going wrong. If that means paying a little along  
10          the way, it's worth it for continued great service.

11          I support the FPL strategy for reliability,  
12          resiliency and community, and also for peace of  
13          mind.

14          Thank you for your time.

15          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your  
16          testimony.

17          MR. TRIERWEILER: Cindy Banyai, and then on  
18          deck we have Stan Knoff and Nancy Walkenhorst.

19          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: And after Cindy speaks  
20          here, I believe the next group of speakers have not  
21          been sworn in, so I will just kind of take over  
22          that practice after this testimony.

23          Madam, you are recognized.

24                           PUBLIC COMMENT

25          MS. BANYAI: Hi. Thank you. My name is Dr.

1 Cindy Banyai. I live at 1709 Coronado Road in Ft.  
2 Myers, Florida. I am an FPL customer.

3 You will forgive me for not having prepared  
4 remarks. I guess FPL didn't send them to me like  
5 they clearly sent it to so many other folks in this  
6 room.

7 As a community advocate, I go around our area  
8 and have talked to people, and I have literally  
9 never heard so many people talk about FPL in such  
10 positive ways as they have here today. And I am  
11 sure that's no coincidence, given the history of  
12 buying public favor that FPL has. They have done  
13 so much as giving contributions and lobbying  
14 extensively so that they can sit here today as a  
15 monopoly, not giving me, a customer, for choice.  
16 So, no, I am not going to thank you for doing your  
17 job. I am going to insist that they stop profiting  
18 off the backs of everyday citizens. I am, in fact,  
19 an ALICE family. I am actually a person in  
20 poverty, so I don't need somebody else to speak for  
21 me.

22 Increasing so that shareholders -- increasing  
23 rates on people like me so shareholders can profit  
24 is disgusting. And sitting here listening to an  
25 hour-and-a-half long FPL commercial because so many

1       folks have been bought off by this company is  
2       nothing short of appalling.

3               FPL has gone around the state influencing  
4       politicians to continue their power. They have  
5       done so, even paying for ghost candidates, like we  
6       saw in the case with JRR, Javier Rodriguez. They  
7       have been caught making sure that they always get  
8       the increases, and their shareholders can always  
9       get what they want.

10              Do I, as a consumer, get what I want? No,  
11       because I can't even install solar power units on  
12       my home to independently power my home unless I  
13       sell it to FPL first.

14              Oh, and the fellow who was here talking about  
15       the incinerator and the electricity he gets from  
16       there, that incinerator is currently leaching  
17       toxins into the Buckingham community.

18              So most are the folks who are here are not  
19       what they seem. They are clearly people who have  
20       been beckoned to this hearing on FPL's behalf,  
21       because they are very generous in giving to  
22       organizations when they know they want them to be  
23       quiet instead of standing up for everyday citizens.

24              So I stand here opposed 100 percent to this  
25       rate hike. And I say to FPL, if you need more

1 money for those infrastructure things to provide  
2 the service that you should be providing, I say go  
3 ahead and take it out of the budget that you have  
4 for lobbying and buying off politicians.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your  
7 testimony.

8 Mr. Trierweiler, you can call the next three  
9 and I will just ask them to all stand.

10 MR. TRIERWEILER: The next three will Stan  
11 Karpf, Nancy Walkenhorst and Stefanie Ink.

12 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Mr. Karpf, before you  
13 provide testimony, everyone just stand that plans  
14 to speak and just take a quick oath.

15 (Whereupon, Chairman La Rosa administered the  
16 oath.)

17 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Excellent. Great. Thank  
18 you.

19 You are recognized, sir.

20 PUBLIC COMMENT

21 MR. KARPf: Excuse me. That little rant, it's  
22 kind of hard to respond to.

23 My name is Stan Karpf. I reside at 4401 Gulf  
24 Shore Boulevard, Naples, Florida, 34103. And for  
25 the record, I am Vice-President of the Park Shore

1 Association, which is an association of 1,400  
2 single family homes and lowrise condominiums, and  
3 also Vice-President of Gulf Shores Association  
4 Condominiums, which is an association of 80  
5 condominiums on the beach on Gulf Shore Boulevard  
6 in the City of Naples, that represents  
7 approximately 4,400 residents is located on the  
8 beach.

9 So I have not been bought off. I drove an  
10 hour-and-a-half today, got a flat tire on I-75,  
11 first one of in my life, and it's a pleasure to be  
12 here, and I am here to support this great company,  
13 because the service that we get in our neighborhood  
14 in the City of Naples is absolutely extraordinary.  
15 I have never seen anything like it. I can't think  
16 of any other company that I do that gets me close  
17 to the service that FPL does.

18 Just to give you a couple of examples over the  
19 last several years. We were hit very badly by  
20 Hurricane Ian. One of our amenities in the Park  
21 Shore Association is a park, beach park  
22 two-and-half-acre beach park. The whole park was  
23 wiped out. We relandscaped the park to the tune of  
24 about \$150,000.

25 We put the landscaping in, unfortunately we

1           didn't have electricity, so I called FPL, and  
2           believe it or not, this was on a Friday afternoon.  
3           On Monday morning, we had crews there getting that  
4           electricity with the support of the MasTec  
5           Corporation, 7:00 a.m. I got a follow-up call at  
6           5:00 p.m. telling me where they were, because we  
7           were -- if we didn't get this electric back on, we  
8           would have lost all of our landscaping.

9           So I even got a call at eight o'clock that  
10          night saying that they were going out into East  
11          Naples to a warehouse to get a part, and this is  
12          after hours, the employees are still calling me and  
13          telling me what's going on, and telling me  
14          everything is going to be okay.

15          Another incident. I had a member of the GSAC  
16          organization that I am on, and we had a situation  
17          with no streetlights, an elderly lady was very  
18          upset. She wrote me an email. I called the FPL  
19          folks, and the next day the streetlights were back  
20          on, and she classified that as this is a miracle.  
21          And quite frankly, in the world we live in today,  
22          we are all consumers, we know how bad services is  
23          every place.

24          So when I look at it, I almost find it  
25          ridiculous that we even sitting here talking about

1           this rate increase that is basically equivalent to,  
2           for me personally, a hamburger from McDonald's, and  
3           maybe a Coke. When everything else that I have  
4           purchased over the last three years has gone up,  
5           whether it be Coca Cola, shampoo, insurance, 30,  
6           40, 50, 100 percent, so to penalize these people  
7           and to not approve this would be absolutely  
8           virtually ridiculous.

9           We had a presentation at the Gulf Shore  
10          Association condominiums about, I guess it was  
11          about two weeks ago, and we had the leadership team  
12          there, and there wasn't a person that didn't come  
13          up to me and say this is a great presentation. We  
14          had about 16 members there. And the quality of the  
15          staff is absolutely extraordinary. We need to give  
16          them this little bit of money to keep this going,  
17          so thank you.

18               CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your  
19          testimony.

20               MR. TRIERWEILER: Nancy.

21                               PUBLIC COMMENT

22               MS. WALKENHORST: Good morning. I am Nancy  
23          Walkenhorst. I am a resident of Naples, Florida,  
24          and I am the President of the Park Shore  
25          Association. As Stan stated, it's an association

1 of about 1,400 households, so -- but I am here on  
2 my own behalf. I was not asked to be here by  
3 anybody, and I prepared my remarks myself.

4 I am here to speak in support of Florida Power  
5 & Light's increase. I am in support of the  
6 investments that Florida Power & Light has made in  
7 renewable energy to help provide cost stability and  
8 cost savings.

9 My husband and I, when we moved full-time to  
10 Naples, we had been customers of Florida Power &  
11 Light since 2007, we became full-time residents in  
12 2016. We elected to join the SolarTogether program  
13 with our -- for our home, and appreciated that  
14 opportunity to contribute to a sustainable type of  
15 energy for our area, and I already am receiving  
16 credits back on my bill because of that investment,  
17 and I very much appreciate that they gave us that  
18 opportunity.

19 These investments reap rewards down the roads  
20 -- down the road, and that -- the fact that they  
21 cost money now, nobody wants to see their bills go  
22 up, but if we are going to be farsighted, we must  
23 recognize that the ability of Florida Power & Light  
24 to continue to make these investments is reliant on  
25 a cost structure that allows them to do so.



1           Utilities in other states that have less  
2           renewable investments face higher, less stable  
3           rates due to fuel cost and price swings. Florida  
4           Power & Light's rates are below the national  
5           average, and many Florida utility -- utilities'  
6           averages as well.

7           We also want to be -- to have a reliable  
8           structure -- infrastructure, and we want to be able  
9           to respond to any growth though our community is  
10          having, and all of this costs money. Maintaining  
11          that infrastructure requires manpower, and those  
12          costs, of course, are rising.

13          Nobody wants to see their bills go up, as I  
14          said, but we want more than anything to have an  
15          electric service we can count on. And when there  
16          are problems, we want to be able to know that they  
17          will be responded to quickly and efficiently.

18          I moved here from Missouri. The utility in my  
19          former state did not, I had the personal experience  
20          where they had not taken the actions that were  
21          required to maintain their infrastructure. We  
22          experienced a devastating ice storm, and the lack  
23          of maintenance on the lines caused massive outages  
24          for weeks in freezing temperatures. We had  
25          families huddled around oven door -- with their

1           ovens on, their gas ovens on with their doors open.  
2           There were a number of people that really suffered,  
3           and there were a lot of lives that were put in  
4           danger because they had not taken the necessary  
5           steps to keep their infrastructure up to date and  
6           prepared for something like that. They suffered a  
7           lot of criticism for that. Unlike what Florida  
8           Power & Light is experiencing here today. I have  
9           heard almost universal praise for from most people  
10          about what they have done in the past to keep this  
11          functioning properly.

12                 So as you all consider the rate increase, I  
13          hope that you will consider these issues, and I  
14          urge you to support the cost increase. Thank you.

15                 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your  
16          testimony.

17                 MR. TRIERWEILER: Stefanie.

18                 PUBLIC COMMENT.

19                 MS. INK: Good morning, and thank you for the  
20          opportunity to speak today. I am going to speak on  
21          behalf of two hats. The first is going to be on  
22          behalf of an organization called Community  
23          Cooperative. I am their CEO, and our work really  
24          is to serve those in our community who are  
25          suffering from homelessness or hunger.

1           One of our main programs we run through  
2           community cooperative is our Meals on Wheels of  
3           Southwest Florida. Most people are of familiar  
4           with Meals on Wheels. It is a home-delivered meal  
5           program via volunteers that goes out to those in  
6           the community who live on their own, can't get out  
7           and get groceries and can't make meals for  
8           themselves.

9           I will tell you, Florida Power & Light has  
10          been a great collaborative partner with many of our  
11          programs, but Meals on Wheels in particular, that  
12          every year for the last, gosh, maybe six, seven  
13          years now I think, we have worked together to send  
14          hurricane kits, educational information that  
15          includes food, water and supplies to our Meals on  
16          Wheels clients who can't get out and get supplies  
17          for themselves.

18          One of the other things that they do is the  
19          educational opportunities that they do for all of  
20          the clients that we serve. I can tell you as a  
21          member of Meals on Wheels of the State of Florida  
22          Chapter, there have been incredible educational  
23          opportunities helping really our most vulnerable  
24          populations, those who can't get out, those who are  
25          stuck in their homes during times of storms or

1 power outages, those who really need that power a  
2 lot of times for medical reasons.

3 The educational updates, the infrastructure  
4 updates and the money saving tips that they provide  
5 these clients is so valuable. Some of the biggest  
6 impact that they make to all of the clients living  
7 on fixed incomes, many are unemployed and many are  
8 living under the poverty level, education to save  
9 on their power bills.

10 My other hat that I am going to wear is me  
11 personally, as a long-term FPL client, I guess, if  
12 you will, living in 33919.

13 I am a fourth generation Lee Countian. We  
14 have been through a lot of storms. Heck, sometimes  
15 on a Thursday afternoon at 3:30, our thunderstorms  
16 can seem worse than some of our hurricanes.

17 I can tell you during Irma, in 2017, I was  
18 without power for about three weeks; Hurricane Ian,  
19 about a week-and-a-half; and Milton, just last  
20 year, was about six hours. Not as big of a storm,  
21 of course, but you can see the impact of the  
22 investment in the infrastructure that FPL is making  
23 in our community is getting the power turned back  
24 on so much faster.

25 Nobody wants to pay more in bills, right. I

1           am sure you heard that 100 times from everybody  
2           today. But I can tell you, when your power is out,  
3           you want it back on. And the only way to do that  
4           is to continue supporting the infrastructure and  
5           growing and hardening of our community when it  
6           comes to our power and our utilities.

7           So I want to say that I support the rate  
8           increase, and I encourage an approval from all of  
9           you to continue strengthening our communities for a  
10          stronger and more resilient community on a good  
11          day, as well as times of storms.

12          Thank you.

13          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

14          MR. LUEBKEMANN: Quick question.

15          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Madam. Yes, sir, you are  
16          recognized.

17          MR. LUEBKEMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

18          Just a quick follow-up question.

19          MS. INK: What's your name?

20          MR. LUEBKEMANN: My name is Jordan Luebke  
21          I am an attorney for ECOSWF, LULAC and Florida  
22          Rising. I just had a quick follow-up question.

23          MS. INK: Sure.

24          MR. LUEBKEMANN: The boards for Community  
25          Cooperative, is there an FPL member on your board?

1 MS. INK: We do have an FPL member on our  
2 board.

3 MR. LUEBKEMANN: Is it the director of your  
4 board?

5 MS. INK: It is the Chairman of our board.

6 MR. LUEBKEMANN: Thank you very much. That's  
7 all.

8 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

9 All right. So the only person that was not  
10 present was Mr. Ray Piacente. I just want to  
11 double check if Mr. Piacente is here and give him  
12 the opportunity. Okay, not seeing him.

13 Is there anyone else here in the audience that  
14 has not had a chance to speak already that would  
15 like to? Okay. Not seeing any there as well.

16 Let's go ahead -- thank you all for coming out  
17 today and sharing your experiences with us. Let's  
18 just take care of a little bit of business before  
19 we close.

20 There was some evidence that was disclosed as  
21 a potential exhibit. I just want to go back to Mr.  
22 Trierweiler. Is that something we want to put into  
23 the record?

24 MR. TRIERWEILER: Is that witness still here?

25 Yes. Ms. Hernandez, do you still want to put your

1 bill into the record?

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: All right. Let's -- as  
3 that works its way up here, we will work that in,  
4 and let's go ahead and call that Exhibit No. 2, if  
5 I remember correctly, that will be considered  
6 Exhibit No. 2.

7 (Whereupon, Exhibit No. 2 was received into  
8 evidence.)

9 MR. TRIERWEILER: I am going to hand it to  
10 you.

11 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yes, this is going to  
12 happen live in action, right, pass it around the  
13 table. Normally this happens electronically. It's  
14 now in the hands of our staff. Let the record show  
15 that that is Exhibit No. 2.

16 Is there any other matters that need to be  
17 addressed before we all exit?

18 Okay. Well, again, thank you all for coming  
19 out today. We are very appreciative. As you see  
20 in the rate case overview, we have got a packed  
21 schedule this week, and also some virtual  
22 opportunities for those of that you are not  
23 physically here but maybe are watching on-line or  
24 through our website, that you also can have an  
25 opportunity to participate and allow us to hear

1           your experience with FPL.

2                   Obviously, this is takes a lot of  
3           coordination. We are extremely happy and pleased  
4           with the cooperation with Lee County to be able to  
5           give us a facility to be able to conduct this, and  
6           of course, get out to the public as best as we can.

7                   So, again, thank you all for coming today,  
8           Commissioners, parties. Again, thank you guys.  
9           And if there is no further business before us, this  
10          meeting is adjourned.

11                   Thank you.

12                   (Proceedings concluded.)

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## 1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 STATE OF FLORIDA )  
3 COUNTY OF LEON )  
45 I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby  
6 certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the  
7 time and place herein stated.8 IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I  
9 stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the  
10 same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;  
11 and that this transcript constitutes a true  
12 transcription of my notes of said proceedings.13 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,  
14 employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor  
15 am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'  
16 attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I  
17 financially interested in the action.18 DATED this 10th day of June, 2025.  
19  
20  
2122   
23 DEBRA R. KRICK  
24 NOTARY PUBLIC  
25 COMMISSION #HH575054  
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2028