

Brian Schultz

From: Brian Schultz on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 10:06 AM
To: 'fredjonasmd@gmail.com'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket No. 20200181; Modernize Florida's outdated efficiency practices

Good Morning, Alfred Jonas

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20200181-EU and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Sincerely,

Brian Schultz
Commission Deputy Clerk II
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.413.6770

PLEASE NOTE: Florida has a very broad public records law. Most written communications to or from state officials regarding state business are considered to be public records and will be made available to the public and the media upon request. Therefore, your e-mail message may be subject to public disclosure.

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

From: fredjonasmd@everyactioncustom.com <fredjonasmd@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 9:48 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Docket No. 20200181; Modernize Florida's outdated efficiency practices

Dear Florida Public Service Commission,

We all know that energy efficiency means using energy smarter. It's important to underline the word "smarter" here. To look at it the other way around, it's blatantly stupid not to recognize, anticipate, and make provisions for the fact that fossil fuels are by definition not renewable, and they will some day be gone, if we're foolish enough to wait until we use them up. But one way or the other, we will transition to something that is a renewable source of energy, and that operates efficiently. That is, unless we plan to use up the fossil fuels, then not use energy any more. If we, as a world civilization, have any brains -- if we're "smart" -- we will start now, since we can't start before now, to accelerate the transition to efficient and renewable sources of energy. It is the quickest, cleanest, and cheapest way to meet our energy needs while helping Floridians cut energy waste and manage power bills. Helping hard-working families make their homes more efficient, safer, and secure also keeps energy dollars in local communities and employs over 100,000 Floridians.

Yet the practices Florida utilities rely upon in setting goals haven't been modernized in almost 30 years – and that has led to Florida's largest power companies badly trailing leading utilities in the Southeast and across the nation in delivering energy savings to families and businesses. Most recently, this outdated approach led to power companies

proposing goals of zero. We can do better. To put it in another way, we here in Florida live in a "red" state. We are slow, we are backward, and we tend to advocate for a conservative agenda, which is often more about money than it is about good sense. And it is certainly not about the welfare of the public.

The time is right to bring Florida's efficiency rules into the 21st century with a holistic approach to energy saving technologies that incentivizes utilities to bring "next generation" solutions to scale for a smarter grid.

We can do this by better aligning electric utilities' financial interests with their customers' bottom lines by rewarding them when they save customers money. This is misleading. In fact, it's partially incomprehensible. Utility companies exist as businesses by selling whatever utility they sell. Some businesses or even whole industries die away, because the need no longer exists. That will never be true of utility companies, although it's true that homeowners need to buy less electric power if they produce it themselves. But there is no reason the utility company can't produce electric power in efficient and renewable ways, precisely as individual homeowners can. And the companies can sell the electricity they produce from solar panels or wind turbines exactly as they sell electricity they produce from burning coal, oil, gas, wood, or anything else, or from atomic interaction and degradation.

We can level the playing field so energy savings programs compete on a fair basis with capital intensive power plants.

We can move beyond the outdated cost tests we've used to evaluate efficiency programs, which take real efficiency savings off the table.

And we can put Florida's most vulnerable customers first by ensuring energy security and affordability for the elderly and low income families.

The technologies of tomorrow - cutting edge efficiency, demand response, smart appliances, electric vehicles, solar, battery storage and more - are here. Let's put them to work for Florida families, unlocking savings for all of us.

Sincerely,

Alfred Jonas

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