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BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

DOCKET NO. 20210015-EI

Petition for rate increase  
by Florida Power & Light  
Company.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

PROCEEDINGS: SERVICE HEARING

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

DATE: Thursday, June 24, 2021

TIME: Commenced: 2:00 p.m.  
Concluded: 3:53 p.m.

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center  
Room 148  
4075 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK  
Court Reporter

PREMIER REPORTING  
112 W. 5TH AVENUE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
(850) 894-0828

1 APPEARANCES:

2 WADE LITCHFIELD, JOHN BURNETT, MARIA MONCADA  
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4 Boulevard, Juno Beach, Florida 33408; KENNETH A.  
5 HOFFMAN, ESQUIRE, 134 W. Jefferson Street, Tallahassee,  
6 Florida 32301; RUSSELL A. BADDERS, ESQUIRE, Gulf Power  
7 Company, One Energy Place, Bin 100, Pensacola, Florida,  
8 32520, appearing on behalf of Florida Power & Light  
9 Company (FPL).

10 BRADLEY MARSHALL and JORDAN LUEBKEMANN,  
11 ESQUIRES, Earthjustice, 111 S. Martin Luther King Jr.  
12 Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32301; CHRISTINA I.  
13 REICHERT, ESQUIRE, Earthjustice, 4500 Biscayne  
14 Boulevard, Suite 201, Miami, Florida 33137, appearing on  
15 behalf of Florida Rising, Inc., League of Latin American  
16 Citizens of Florida, and Environmental Confederation of  
17 Southwest Florida.

18 THOMAS JERNIGAN, MAJOR HOLLY BUCHANAN, CAPTAIN  
19 ROBERT FRIEDMAN, SERGEANT ARNOLD BRAXTON, EBONY PAYTON  
20 and SCOTT KIRK, Federal Executive Agencies, 139 Barnes  
21 Drive, Suite 1, Tyndall AFB, Florida 32403; appearing on  
22 behalf of the Federal Executive Agencies.

23

24

25

1 APPEARANCES CONTINUED:

2 JON C. MOYLE, JR. and KAREN A. PUTNAL,  
3 ESQUIRES, Moyle Law Firm, 118 North Gadsden Street,  
4 Tallahassee, FL 32301; appearing on behalf of Florida  
5 Industrial Users Group (FIPUG).

6 JAMES W. BREW and LAURA W. BAKER, Stone Law  
7 Firm, 1025 Thomas Jefferson Street NW, Suite 800 West  
8 Washington, DC 20007; appearing on behalf of Florida  
9 Retail Federation (FRF).

10 WILLIAM C. GARNER, ESQUIRE, Law Office of  
11 William C. Garner, 3425 Bannerman Road Unit 105, #414,  
12 Tallahassee, Florida 32312, appearing on behalf of The  
13 CLEO Institute Inc.

14 GEORGE CAVROS, ESQUIRE, 120 E. Oakland Park  
15 Boulevard, Suite 105, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33334;  
16 appearing on behalf of Southern Alliance for Clean  
17 Energy (SACE).

18 KATIE CHILES OTTENWELLER, ESQUIRE, 838 Barton  
19 Woods Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30307, appearing on behalf  
20 of Vote Solar.

21 NATHAN A. SKOP, ESQUIRE, 420 NW 50th  
22 Boulevard, Gainesville, Florida 32607, appearing on  
23 behalf of Daniel R. and Alexandria Larson (Larsons).

24  
25

1 APPEARANCES CONTINUED:

2 RICHARD GENTRY, PUBLIC COUNSEL; CHARLES  
3 REHWINKEL, DEPUTY PUBLIC COUNSEL; PATRICIA A.  
4 CHRISTENSEN and ANASTACIA PIRRELLO, ESQUIRES, OFFICE OF  
5 PUBLIC COUNSEL, c/o The Florida Legislature, 111 West  
6 Madison Street, Room 812, Tallahassee, Florida  
7 32399-1400, appearing on behalf of the Citizens of the  
8 State of Florida (OPC.).

9 SUZANNE BROWNLESS, BIANCA LHERISSON, SHAW  
10 STILLER and JENNIFER CRAWFORD, ESQUIRES, FPSC General  
11 Counsel's Office, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard,  
12 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, appearing on behalf of  
13 the Florida Public Service Commission (Staff).

14 KEITH HETRICK, GENERAL COUNSEL; MARY ANNE  
15 HELTON, DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL, Florida Public Service  
16 Commission, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee,  
17 Florida 32399-0850, Advisor to the Florida Public  
18 Service Commission.

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

2 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Good afternoon. It is two  
3 o'clock. I would like to welcome you all to this  
4 customer service hearing in the Florida Power &  
5 Light and Gulf Power rate case.

6 Today's hearing is an important part of the  
7 rate case process and is our opportunity to hear  
8 from you, the customers.

9 My name is Gary Clark. I am the Chairman of  
10 the Florida Public Service Commission, and me and  
11 my fellow Commissioners are very interested in  
12 hearing your comments about the quality of service  
13 that you receive from Gulf Power Company and  
14 Florida Power & Light, and about the proposed rate  
15 increase today.

16 At this time, I am going to ask staff, if they  
17 would, to please read the notice.

18 MS. LHERISSON: By notice issued on June 4th,  
19 2021, this time and place has been set for a  
20 customer service hearing in Docket No. 20210015-EI.

21 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Lherisson.

22 Next we will take appearances of counsel,  
23 beginning with Florida Power & Light.

24 MS. COTNER: Good afternoon. My name is Kate  
25 Cotner, and I am appearing on behalf of Florida

1 Power & Light Company. I would like to also enter  
2 an appearance for Wade Litchfield and Russell  
3 Badders.

4 At the appropriate time, Christopher Chapel  
5 will provide FPL's opening remarks, followed  
6 briefly by remarks in Spanish by Ms. Prieto.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much.

9 OPC.

10 MS. CHRISTENSEN: Good afternoon. My name is  
11 Patricia Christensen. I would like to put in an  
12 appearance for Richard Gentry, the Public Counsel,  
13 Charles Rehwinkel and Anastacia Pirrello.

14 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Christensen.  
15 Florida Rising.

16 MR. LUEBKEMANN: Good afternoon, and thank  
17 you, Mr. Chairman.

18 This is Jordan Luebkekmann for Florida Rising,  
19 LULAC and ECOSWF. I would also like to enter an  
20 appearance for Bradley Marshall and Christina  
21 Reichert.

22 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you very  
23 much.

24 FEA.

25 FIPUG.

1 SACE.

2 Florida Retail.

3 Vote Solar.

4 MS. OTTENWELLER: Good afternoon, Mr.  
5 Chairman. Katie Chiles Ottenweller is here for  
6 Vote Solar. And I would also like to enter an  
7 appearance for Bill Garner on behalf of the CLEO  
8 Institute.

9 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Ottenweller.  
10 Walmart.  
11 Larsons.

12 MR. SKOP: Yes, good afternoon, Mr. Chairman.  
13 Nathan Skop entering an appearance on behalf of  
14 Daniel and Alexandra Larson.

15 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Skop.  
16 Let my go back. Was someone on from Walmart?  
17 All right. Next up is FAIR.

18 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Robert  
19 Scheffel Wright appearing on behalf of Floridians  
20 Against Increased Rates, Incorporated. I would  
21 also like to enter an opinion -- an appearance for  
22 my law partner, John Thomas LaVia, III.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Wright. We  
25 will get your opinion later.

1 Staff counsel.

2 MS. LHERISSON: Bianca Lherisson. I  
3 would also like to enter an appearance for Suzanne  
4 Brownless and Shaw Stiller.

5 MR. HETRICK: And Keith Hetrick, your General  
6 Counsel, Mr. Chair. And I will enter an  
7 appearance, I will go ahead and do that for Mary  
8 Anne Helton, the Deputy General Counsel.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much.

11 Did we overlook anyone?

12 MR. JOHNSON: Hi. Good afternoon. My name is  
13 Jeremy Johnson, and I just joined the call. I  
14 apologize. I am a couple minutes late.

15 MR. HERNANDEZ: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman.  
16 My name is Peter Hernandez, and I also just joined  
17 the call a couple minutes late.

18 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Just for the  
19 record, this is for the attorneys -- this -- this  
20 particular introduction is for the attorneys making  
21 an appearance. If you are an attorney making an  
22 appearance, we need you to state the company you  
23 are representing, please.

24 MR. HERNANDEZ: I'm not an attorney.

25 MR. JOHNSON: Nor am I.

1           CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you very  
2 much.

3           All right. For our customers that are on the  
4 line, we will be getting to you in just a couple of  
5 minutes. Let me kind of lay out some instructions  
6 how we are going to be proceeding today, and then  
7 we will move on from there.

8           As I mentioned, this hearing is designed so  
9 that we can hear directly from the consumers. This  
10 is your opportunity to express your thoughts, your  
11 concern and comments related to the utility's  
12 request. In August, there will be a technical  
13 hearing where the Commission will take in the  
14 substance and the evidence of the case.

15           If you are on the line and you would like to  
16 speak directly to an FPL or a Gulf Power customer  
17 service representative, we have them available  
18 standing by, and they can be reached by calling  
19 (833)407-2007. They will be available throughout  
20 the hearing today, and the hearing that is  
21 conducted this evening.

22           We also have a Public Service Commission  
23 employee that is available. Mr. Curt Mouring from  
24 our accounting department is a PSC representative  
25 for this docket. He can be reached by emailing

1 cmouring@psc.state.fl.us, or by calling  
2 (850)413-6427.

3 Commission technical staff are also on the  
4 line today.

5 As a reminder, this is an official hearing  
6 that will be transcribed and become part of the  
7 official record. As such, we will make certain  
8 that each customer is sworn in prior to their  
9 testimony. If you signed up on-line, many of you  
10 had the opportunity to swear in by checking a box  
11 on-line. If you did so, that will suffice. If you  
12 did not, then we will ask you to swear or affirm  
13 your testimony before you begin today.

14 I also remind you that your comments are  
15 subject to cross-examination by the other parties;  
16 that is, you may be asked questions by any of the  
17 parties or by any of the Commissioners.

18 Pardon me one second.

19 If you are calling in today, we ask that you  
20 please keep your phone on mute at all times until  
21 you are called upon to speak. If your phone is off  
22 mute and has any interference in the hearing, we  
23 will have to remove you on-line immediately. We  
24 would encourage you to resolve the problem and call  
25 back in immediately. If you are disconnected for

1           any reason, please call back in as soon as  
2           possible.

3           I would also encourage you to not use the  
4           speakerphone function when speaking. Please speak  
5           directly into your phone, or use a headset. It  
6           causes a lot less interference on our end. If you  
7           are disconnected, please dial back in as soon as  
8           possible.

9           Also, we will have a three-minute time limit  
10          on all speakers. I apologize for what may seem  
11          like a short duration in advance, but we have 50  
12          speakers lined up to speak today. It's going to be  
13          a couple of hours, and out of courtesy to those  
14          that are at the line, we would like to try to get  
15          through all of our speakers as quickly as possible  
16          so that everyone is given a fair amount of time.

17          At the three-minute mark, you will hear a  
18          bell. It is our understanding that sometimes it is  
19          difficult to hear the bell. We will ring it at the  
20          three o'clock mark -- excuse me, the three-minute  
21          mark and the 3:15 mark, okay? At 3:15, I will  
22          interrupt you and ask you to wrap up your comments  
23          in about five seconds if you are still going. So  
24          please be respectful of the other speakers, and try  
25          to keep your comments within the three-minute

1 timeline.

2 In addition to sharing your comments with us  
3 here today, you may submit written comments to the  
4 Commission. There is a pre-addressed comment card  
5 for download on our website, or you can email your  
6 comments directly to the Commission's Clerk --  
7 Commission Clerk, and that email address is  
8 clerk@psc.state.fl.us. Please reference Docket No.  
9 20210015-EI.

10 I would also like to remind you that if during  
11 the course of the hearing another customer has said  
12 basically the same thing that you would like to  
13 say, you can simply agree with that customer's  
14 comments and allow us the opportunity to move on a  
15 little bit faster. We want to make sure that  
16 everyone is as comfortable as possible while  
17 providing their testimony. Whether your comments  
18 are made verbally tonight, or whether they are  
19 received in writing, please be assured that your  
20 comments will be reviewed and taken into  
21 consideration during the course of these  
22 proceedings.

23 All right. Before we begin, any Commissioners  
24 have anything they would like to add? I know  
25 Commissioner Graham is on-line. I know

1 Commissioner Fay is on-line as well. Any comments  
2 from Commissioners before we begin today?

3 COMMISSIONER FAY: None from me, Mr. Chairman.  
4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you very  
6 much.

7 We are going to begin with opening statement  
8 from FPL followed by OPC. And then from that  
9 point, we will allow the other parties just a  
10 second or two to make a brief introduction as well.

11 FPL, you are recognized.

12 MS. COTNER: Thank you, Chairman.

13 As I noted earlier, Christopher Chapel will  
14 provide our opening remarks, followed by Ms.  
15 Prieto.

16 We also have members from our customer service  
17 team on-line and available for this hearing.

18 MR. CHAPEL: Thank you, Chairman Clark. Thank  
19 you, Commissioners, and thank you for all the  
20 customers who have taken the time to be with us  
21 here today.

22 Before I begin, I would like to extend our  
23 thoughts and prayers to the families affected by  
24 the tragedy in Surfside, Miami. FPL is working  
25 closely with Miami-Dade Fire & Rescue to ensure the

1 safety, and the safety of our customers and crews.  
2 As ever, we remain on site for as long as  
3 necessary, and will continue to provide support to  
4 the responders and to the community.

5 My name is Christopher Chapel, and I am the  
6 Vice-President of Customer Service for FPL.

7 FPL is a regulated energy company. This means  
8 the Public Service Commission oversees our rates  
9 and operations to ensure we deliver safe and  
10 reliable service at fair prices. We are here today  
11 because we are asking for new base rates beginning  
12 in 2022.

13 I am proud to be a part of the team that  
14 provides you with America's best energy value;  
15 electricity that's not just clean and reliable, but  
16 also affordable. That doesn't mean we can't be  
17 better, which is why your feedback today is so  
18 important to us. Fundamentally, our mission is to  
19 provide you with excellent service at affordable  
20 rates.

21 Your electricity is cleaner and more reliable  
22 than ever. It is also affordable. The rates you  
23 pay are well below the national average. Our  
24 typical residential bill is lower today than it was  
25 15 years ago. This is the result of FPL's

1 consistent and deliberate effort to continuously  
2 improve upon our performance in the value we  
3 provide our customers. It's a purposeful and  
4 never-ending commitment to be the best utility  
5 possible, and this is at the heart of our rate  
6 request.

7 We are standing by our proven track record and  
8 promising an even better tomorrow, a more resilient  
9 and sustainable energy future that all of us can  
10 depend on.

11 Our smart investments have increased  
12 generation efficiency and dramatically improved  
13 reliability. In fact, we have been the most  
14 reliable utility in Florida for the last 15 years,  
15 and we have improved our storm preparedness and  
16 mobilization. As a result, we have dramatically  
17 improved our restoration times. It's been five  
18 years since our last rate request.

19 Florida is now the third large state and this  
20 world's 17th largest economy. FPL has grown too.  
21 We now serve more than 11 million Floridians, and  
22 though we have invested billions of dollars every  
23 year to support Florida's growth, and to  
24 continuously improve your service, many of these  
25 investments are not included in current rates. So

1 we've asked the PSC to approve a plan that would  
2 phase in new rates starting in 2022.

3 Please keep in mind that the proposed increase  
4 is spread across millions of customers in over a  
5 four-year period. So even with the proposed rate  
6 increase, typical residential bills will continue  
7 to remain well below the national average. And  
8 importantly, the plan will allow us to continue to  
9 make proven investments in infrastructure, clean  
10 energy and technologies that benefit our customers  
11 and our growing state.

12 While we work hard every day to keep bills  
13 low, we also recognize that some of our customers  
14 face challenges. To this end, we partner with  
15 dozen of assistance agencies to distribute LIHEAP  
16 and Care to Share funding to help customers who are  
17 struggling to pay their bills, and during the COVID  
18 pandemic, we a received approval from the PSC to  
19 create a number of unique programs that provided  
20 approximately \$75 million in assistance to  
21 customers.

22 As we always have, and always will, we are  
23 here to support our customers. In fact, we have  
24 employees right now to help. As Chairman Clark  
25 mentioned, you can contact them at (833)407-2007.

1           In closing, we are committed to serving you  
2           today, while always looking over the horizon so we  
3           are ready to meet your energy needs tomorrow. We  
4           are looking forward to hearing from you. We want  
5           to hear what we do well. To that end, we've asked  
6           customers who have said they value our service to  
7           share their thoughts today. But more importantly,  
8           we want to know where we can improve. So thank you  
9           for your participation, and thank you for the  
10          opportunity to serve you.

11           I would like now to turn it over to Rosie  
12          Prieto, Senior Director of our Customer Care team,  
13          to welcome our Spanish speaking customers.

14           MS. PRIETO: Thank you, Christopher.

15           (Whereupon, Ms. Rosie Prieto made introductory  
16          remarks in Spanish.)

17           CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you, FPL.

18           Just a quick reminder, if you put your phone  
19          on hold, we will probably have to disconnect you.  
20          If you use the hold function, sometimes we get all  
21          kind of feedback here. We are hearing music now,  
22          so please do not put your phone on hold. Put it on  
23          mute only.

24           Just another reminder as well. This is a  
25          designated Spanish speaking hearing. We have an

1 interpreter available for anyone that might need  
2 it, Jackie Guldris is our interpreter. Thank you  
3 for being with us today as well, Jackie.

4 (Whereupon, interpreter translated Chairman  
5 Clark's statement.)

6 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you.

7 Ms. Christensen, you are recognized.

8 MS. CHRISTENSEN: Good afternoon, Chairman.

9 Good afternoon. My name is Patricia  
10 Christensen. I am with the Office of Public  
11 Counsel. We are an office with the Legislature set  
12 up to represent you, the ratepayers of Florida  
13 Power & Light.

14 We are investigating FPL's rate request in  
15 this matter. To help us, we've hired experts in  
16 accounting, depreciation, cost of capital and other  
17 regulatory matters, and we will try to get the best  
18 results we can for you, the customer.

19 Today we are here to hear from you, the  
20 customers, about your experience with FPL, good or  
21 bad. We thank you for taking your time to attend  
22 this hearing and give us your input.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much, Ms.  
25 Christensen.

1 Florida Rising.

2 MR. LUEBKEMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,  
3 Commissioners. Good afternoon. My name is Jordan  
4 Luebkekmann, and along with my colleagues, Bradley  
5 Marshall and Christina Reichert, I have the great  
6 privilege of representing Florida Rising, the  
7 League of United Latin American Citizens of Florida  
8 and the Environmental Confederation of Southwest  
9 Florida in this proceeding.

10 These organizations have missions spanning  
11 environmental conservation, economic and civil  
12 rights and environmental and climate justice, but  
13 all three are in this case to oppose FPL's attempt  
14 to raise rates by 20 percent. This rate hike  
15 allows FPL to increase their profits and pay for  
16 unneeded fossil fuel gas plants, among other  
17 unnecessary expenses.

18 We have been listening during these hearings  
19 and know that many of you have noticed the service  
20 crews you see making upgrades to transmission lines  
21 or repairs after storms. It's important that you  
22 know that these activities are mostly or entirely  
23 paid for by other cost recovery mechanisms separate  
24 from the additional \$6.5 billion that FPL is  
25 seeking to charge you in rates over the next four

1 years in this docket. FPL doesn't need to charge  
2 you one more cent to pay for that work.

3 As the evidence will show, FPL's proposed rate  
4 increase, and how FPL plans to spend that extra  
5 money, is bad for ratepayers, bad for low-income  
6 households and communities of color, and bad for  
7 the environment. For these reasons, we will be  
8 asking that FPL's request be rejected.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much.

11 Any of the other intervenors like to speak?

12 Ms. Ottenweller, you are recognized.

13 MS. OTTENWELLER: Yes, Mr. Chairman, if I may.

14 CHAIRMAN CLARK: You are recognized, Ms.

15 Ottenweller.

16 MS. OTTENWELLER: Thank you, and good  
17 afternoon.

18 I am here on behalf of the CLEO Institute and  
19 Vote Solar. Two nonprofit organizations working  
20 towards an affordable, clean, equitable and  
21 resilient energy system that works for all  
22 Floridians, especially those who are most  
23 vulnerable.

24 We know you have a lot going on, and so to all  
25 the customers calling in, we want to say thank you

1           so much for taking the time and we really look  
2           forward to hearing your thoughts.

3           CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you, Ms.  
4           Ottenweller.

5           Any other party like to speak?

6           MR. SKOP: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Nathan Skop on  
7           behalf of Larsons, if I may be recognized.

8           CHAIRMAN CLARK: You are recognized, sir.

9           MR. SKOP: Yes. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman.  
10          My name is Nathan Skop. As an attorney, it's my  
11          privilege to represent the Larsons in the FPL rate  
12          case.

13          The Larsons are FPL residential customers  
14          living in Palm Beach County who are very concerned  
15          about the significant rate impact to the FPL  
16          proposed rate increase. The Larsons would like to  
17          thank the other FPL customers for participating in  
18          this customer service hearing today, and also  
19          extend their condolences to victims of the  
20          condominium collapse in Surfside, as FPL mentioned.

21          The FPL rate increase represents the largest  
22          electric rate increase in Florida's history. FPL  
23          has the burden to demonstrate that this request is  
24          fair, just and reasonable. FPL should be allowed  
25          to recover the prudent additions made to rate base

1           since the last rate request and settlement, but  
2           whether that requires a rate increase is a  
3           completely separate matter.

4           It's also important to understand, however,  
5           that FPL claims about having low -- lower bills  
6           than other electric utilities does not provide the  
7           legal basis for the Florida Public Service  
8           Commission to increase FPL's base rates.

9           The Larsons oppose the FPL request because the  
10          evidence will demonstrate the FPL request is well  
11          in excess of what FPL needs to continue to provide  
12          reliable service to FPL customers while remaining  
13          financially healthy.

14          As the Commission is aware, the return on  
15          equity is one of the many contested issues in the  
16          FPL rate case. In the -- in this current rate  
17          case, FPL has requested a mid point ROE of 11.5  
18          percent. FPL has a very strong balance sheet and  
19          is very financially healthy.

20          In sharp contrast to the FPL request, on  
21          May 4th, the Florida Public Service Commission  
22          approved the Duke rate case settlement with a mid  
23          point ROE of 9.85, which set a new benchmark for  
24          investor-owned utilities in the state of Florida.  
25          With a much stronger balance sheet than Duke, it's

1           difficult to understand how FPL could justify a mid  
2           point ROE that's 165 basis points above the ROE  
3           benchmark that was recently approved by the Florida  
4           Public Service Commission on May 4th.

5           The Larsons are also deeply concerned about  
6           media reports about the influence of investor-owned  
7           utilities, such as FPL, alleged to have over the  
8           Florida Public Service Commission and the Florida  
9           Legislature.

10          In closing, the Larsons are hopeful that the  
11          time and expense of a fully litigated rate case,  
12          which would require the Public Service Commission  
13          to decide the case, could be avoided and that a  
14          fair and reasonable settlement can be reached  
15          between the parties which would balance the  
16          interests of the consumers in Florida and FPL  
17          alike.

18          Thank you for your time.

19          CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much, Mr.  
20          Skop.

21          Mr. Wright, you are recognized.

22          MR. WRIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

23          Good afternoon. My name is Robert Scheffel  
24          Wright, I go by Schef. I was born in Miami, and I  
25          have worked on energy matters and issues in Florida

1 here in Florida for more than 40 years, including  
2 service in Governor Bob Graham's Energy Office, and  
3 seven years on the Public Service Commission staff  
4 before I became an attorney.

5 This afternoon, I have the privilege of  
6 representing Floridians Against Increased Rates,  
7 Incorporated, which we call FAIR, a nonprofit  
8 corporation here in Florida. On behalf of FAIR, I  
9 thank all of you customers for turning out and  
10 participating in this hearing today.

11 I want to be clear about this, and this is  
12 borne out in our Articles of Incorporation. From  
13 the viewpoint of customers, from all customers and  
14 from the more than 500 FPL customers who are  
15 already members of FAIR, FAIR wants a healthy FPL,  
16 but our position is real simple, FPL should have  
17 enough money to do its job, but not too much. It  
18 is FPL's duty and responsibility, its job, to  
19 provide safe and reliable service at the lowest  
20 possible cost.

21 The evidence in this case will show that FPL's  
22 rate increase request, which by the way is by far  
23 the largest in Florida history, would give it way  
24 more money than it needs to do its job. Putting it  
25 politely, FPL's request is unreasonable, and the

1 resulting rates would be unfair.

2 The unfairness of FPL's request is this: FPL  
3 does not need the extra \$1.1 billion of your money  
4 that it wants next year, and they surely don't need  
5 all of what they've asked for in 2023 either. Even  
6 if FPL received no rate increase in this case at  
7 all, FPL could cover all of its projected expenses  
8 for 2022, including interest. It could recover all  
9 costs associated with their existing and projected  
10 investments for 2022, and still have well over \$2  
11 billion in profits left over.

12 While some investments in FPL's existing rate  
13 base were not included when the current rates were  
14 set, that does not mean that those costs are not  
15 covered. FPL has earned at the very top of its  
16 allowed rate of return range for the last three  
17 years.

18 And it's even worse than that. FPL also want  
19 to take money, surplus value that your payments  
20 will create use what they call a depreciation  
21 reserve surplus to pad their profits even further,  
22 perhaps up to another billion-and-a-half dollars  
23 over the next four years.

24 FAIR and our team of witnesses will fight to  
25 prevent FPL from getting any of your money that FPL

1 does not need. We want them to have what they  
2 need, and to prevent them from using up value that  
3 you create to further pad their profits.

4 This is your hearing. Tell the Commissioners  
5 what you think. Thank you for participating, and  
6 thank you for your attention.

7 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Wright.

8 Any other parties?

9 All right. Let's move on to the reason we are  
10 here, and that's to hear directly from FPL and Gulf  
11 Power customers.

12 Just as a reminder, you will have three  
13 minutes to provide your testimony. I am going to  
14 try to call each name in blocks of three, give you  
15 kind of a heads-up to be ready to turn your phone  
16 off of mute and be ready to speak. I will call  
17 each person out by name. If you have not been  
18 sworn in, I will swear you in. We will recognize  
19 you to begin three minutes of testimony.

20 All right. Let's begin. We are going to  
21 have -- the first three are going to be Councilman  
22 Douglas Lawson, William Midgett and John Dunnuck.  
23 Are you three on the line? Mr. Lawson, are you  
24 available?

25 MR. LAWSON: Thank you, good afternoon, Mr.

1 Chairman.

2 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Mr. Lawson, let me swear you  
3 in before you begin.

4 (Whereupon, Councilman Daniel Lawson was sworn  
5 by Chairman Clark.)

6 MR. LAWSON: I do.

7 CHAIRMAN CLARK: You are recognized, sir.

8 MR. LAWSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and board  
9 members. My name is Douglas Lawson. I am a  
10 Councilman for the City of Riviera Beach.

11 I have been a lifelong member of this  
12 community. I am also a business owner -- I'm from  
13 this community -- for the last 12 years in the City  
14 of Riviera Beach, and I also have an office located  
15 in West Palm Beach.

16 As a resident and as a business owner I have  
17 been extremely pleased with level of service I have  
18 experienced with FPL. I do understand that the  
19 board has this tough decision of this rate increase  
20 spread over millions of customers, and I understand  
21 that as a business owner, and as an elected  
22 official, that business must go on.

23 It's tough decisions like this that we have to  
24 operate on. And business that operates off my  
25 clients within my specific personal business and

1           within the government within the residents that we  
2           elect.

3                       So we try our very best to operate within our  
4           budget within our ad valorem tax as a city elected,  
5           but have to continue to provide the amazing  
6           service. The water plant that we are trying to  
7           bring for our city is going to require inevitable  
8           increases. Our services and delapidated buildings  
9           in our community require the increases, require the  
10          investment from the community.

11                      So the service that FPL is providing has been  
12          stellar, and I just want to thank FPL for their  
13          prompt responses to my businesses and for my local  
14          residents that I serve here in this community, and  
15          actually investing into our community with the  
16          smart technology, the micro grid, the EV chargers,  
17          the solar trees at Barracuda Bay, those are just  
18          some of the amenities that FPL has offered, and  
19          understanding that this rate increase is part of  
20          business. So we have to understand that we have to  
21          continue to move forward, and we have to be  
22          supportive of them.

23                      Now, residents and individuals and customers  
24          are not going to see that the budget and operations  
25          that come with certain things that continue to move

1           this business forward, but it's something that we  
2           have to make these tough decisions to do.

3           I want, as elected officials, especially one  
4           that services the plant that FPL is currently is,  
5           is to work as a better partner with FPL. So we are  
6           here to offer whatever services that are needed so  
7           that we can work on better relationships from local  
8           municipalities, from our current residents, and to  
9           see how we can continue to bridge this gap. So we  
10          are in support of -- of the raise that's going to  
11          be coming from FPL.

12          Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13          CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much, Mr.  
14          Lawson.

15          Anyone have any questions for Mr. Lawson?

16          Next up, William Midgett. Mr. Midgett, are  
17          you on the line?

18          All right. Next up John Dunnuck. Mr. John  
19          Dunnuck.

20          All right. Next is Elizabeth -- the next  
21          three will be Elizabeth Benac, Jeanette Ruiz and  
22          Mary Michelle Lamb.

23          Ms. Benac, are you on the line?

24          MS. BENAC: Hi, yes. This is Elizabeth, Betsy  
25          Benac.

1           CHAIRMAN CLARK: You are recognized.

2           MS. BENAC: I am a customer of FPL and -- can  
3 you hear me, please?

4           CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, ma'am. We can hear you.  
5 You are recognized.

6           MS. BENAC: You can hear me? Okay. Good.  
7 Thank you so much.

8           And I am a customer in Manatee County,  
9 Florida. I also served as a county commissioner  
10 for the past eight years in Manatee County,  
11 Florida. I did retire. Did not seek reelection in  
12 November, but -- so I am speaking today solely as a  
13 customer of Florida Power & Light.

14           I want to say, though, that while serving as a  
15 county commissioner, we had a great relationship  
16 with Florida Power & Light. Many investments have  
17 been made in our community. They are trying to  
18 strengthen the grid to provide great service for  
19 our residents.

20           We've had a large investment in solar fields  
21 in our community. And we have the largest battery,  
22 as I understand, in the United States being  
23 constructed right now.

24           We appreciate all of these improvements. We  
25 know that nobody, nobody wants to see their rates

1 go up, but unfortunately, we seem to have -- be in  
2 a very inflationary time, everything is costing  
3 more. We recognize infrastructure is so important  
4 in our community, as well as our state. And to  
5 make sure that this infrastructure is reliable, we  
6 understand it that there has to be investments, and  
7 the costs have to be covered.

8 I understand the Public Service Commission has  
9 a very tough job to try to weigh all of the  
10 evidence. I appreciated listening to everyone's  
11 point of view as -- as each person and  
12 representative spoke. And I am sure that the  
13 Public Service Commission will take all of that  
14 evidence into consideration and make the right  
15 decision.

16 I just want to say that as a Florida Power &  
17 Light customer, one who is currently up in  
18 Michigan, for example, and the rates are so much  
19 higher here, and it's important in Florida that we  
20 keep the rates reasonable, at the same time, we  
21 invest in the infrastructure that we need.

22 So I am in support of this effort by Florida  
23 Power & Light to try to make sure over the next  
24 five years, whatever the period will be, that they  
25 have the resources they need to keep providing

1           reliable energy.

2           You know, things are changing as far as we are  
3           having maybe more storms, more frequent storms,  
4           more intense storms, and it's very important that  
5           we be prepared so that our residents can weather  
6           the storm.

7           So I just wanted to thank you all for taking  
8           the time to hear from customers, and I want to say  
9           that I am in support of Florida Power & Light doing  
10          what they need to do to continue to provide safe,  
11          affordable energy for our residents.

12          Thank you.

13          CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you very  
14          much.

15          Anyone have any questions?

16          Moving to the next customer, Jeanette Ruiz?

17          MS. RUIZ: Yes, I am here. Can you hear me?

18          CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, you are recognized, Ms.  
19          Ruiz.

20          MS. RUIZ: Thank you.

21          So my name is Jeanette Ruiz, and I am an FPL  
22          customer in Hialeah, Florida. I am speaking today  
23          against the FPL rate increase. I am concerned  
24          about this crease for two reasons.

25          One, although I personally live in an energy

1           efficient home and am able to afford my electric  
2           bills, many of my family are not. My parents and  
3           grandparents, who are also FPL customers but could  
4           not be on this call, are fixed incomes and find  
5           themselves to stretch their money to afford their  
6           electric bills, especially during these brutally  
7           hot summer months. Oftentimes, they opt to open  
8           their windows at night and run fans and have their  
9           AC unit running all day.

10                    I have lived in Miami my entire life, and  
11           anyone who lives here knows that the high heat days  
12           have become more frequent. I worry that with the  
13           rate increase, many people will be forced to limit  
14           their energy and risk putting their health and  
15           safety in danger.

16                    My second reason why I am against the rate  
17           increase is that I, as a customer of FPL, am  
18           unwillingly contributing to worsening our climate  
19           crisis. As a small business owner, and homeowner,  
20           I worry about the future of Miami. We are ground  
21           zero for climate change.

22                    I received a letter regarding my FPSC  
23           correspondence from FPL, and I wanted to quote  
24           something as it's written here: Serving customers  
25           today comes with a fundamental responsibility of

1           also looking over the horizon to ensure we are  
2           ready to serve customers tomorrow.

3           I couldn't agree with this more, however, FPL  
4           plans to continue investing in fossil fuels which  
5           contribute to emissions as well as pollute our  
6           community.

7           Here in Florida, we have a unique opportunity  
8           to be an example for the nation by using clean  
9           renewable energy sources like solar that could  
10          create jobs. I would love for FPL seriously  
11          consider what its customers are asking for and work  
12          together with us towards a resilient and equitable  
13          future.

14          Thank you.

15          CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Ruiz.

16          Anybody have any questions?

17          All right. Next up, Mary Michelle Lamb.

18          MS. LAMB: Hello, yes, I am here.

19          CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, you are recognized,  
20          Ms. Lamp.

21          MS. LAMB: I live in Ormond Beach in Volusia  
22          County, and from 2005 to 2016, I lived in Merritt  
23          Island in Brevard County, and FPL was our service  
24          provider. We were always pleased with service  
25          during all the storms through those 10 years, and

1 FPL was always quick to get power back up and  
2 running.

3 And then in 2017 through 2020, I lived in  
4 Brevard North Carolina in Transylvania County in  
5 the mountains, and had a different service provider  
6 there. We have ice and snowstorms in the  
7 mountains, and more frequent power outages and  
8 higher electric bills.

9 So I am very happy to be back in Florida for  
10 many reasons, and -- (inaudible) -- out the  
11 proposed four-year rate plan, and I support the  
12 increase so that FPL can protect their customers  
13 during all the storms that we have here in Florida,  
14 and also see that they are increasing needs of  
15 green energy. So I support the rate increase, if  
16 that's what it takes to keep the residents in  
17 Florida safe and up and running during the storms.

18 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you very  
19 much.

20 Anyone have any questions for Ms. Lamb?

21 All right. Thank you for being here today.

22 Next up, Maria Johnston, Nicole Kaiser and  
23 Peter Hernandez.

24 Ms. Johnston.

25 MS. JOHNSTON: Thank you. Thank you for the

1 opportunity to speak today.

2 My name is Maria Johnston. I am both a  
3 resident and business owner in Plantation, Florida,  
4 which is Broward County, and I am a customer of  
5 Florida Power & Light.

6 I do support the rate increase due to the fact  
7 that Florida Power & Light has done a great job of  
8 keeping the service going in my area even during  
9 and after major storms.

10 In addition, over the last decade, my bills  
11 have not changed significantly. And unlike what we  
12 saw happen in the Texas area, where the power grid  
13 was in such bad shape that not only the residents  
14 were without service for longer than anyone  
15 expected, but the bills were much higher than  
16 anyone ever imagined. I actually have family in  
17 Texas, and they receive bills higher than \$2,000  
18 due to the way that their power sources are set up.

19 We don't have to worry about that here in  
20 Florida. And I want Florida Power & Light to  
21 continue to harden and improve the infrastructure,  
22 and I feel that they should be allowed to increase  
23 the rates in order to keep the power reliability  
24 the same or better than it is today.

25 Thank you very much.

1           CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you very  
2 much.

3           Next up, Nicole Kaiser.

4           MS. KAISER: Good afternoon, everyone. My  
5 name is Nicole Kaiser, and I am a member ON behalf  
6 of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, a recent  
7 graduate of the Leadership Miami Class of 41, the  
8 2020 class. I am here today to speak about FPL's  
9 commitment to helping our communities.

10           During my experience with Leadership Miami,  
11 our group had to put together a community service  
12 project to give back, and we decided to assist a  
13 local South Dade school that services primary and  
14 pre-education students from a nearby homeless  
15 shelter and transitional housing facility in  
16 Homestead, Florida.

17           Our group approached FPL to assist us with  
18 volunteers, and they came through with over 70  
19 employees who volunteered their entire day to  
20 renovate the complete outdoor area of the space for  
21 the school, implementing a new turf field, new  
22 learning apparatuses for the students, as well as  
23 implementing a lot of the building materials.

24           Thanks to FPL, the volunteers were able to  
25 complete all of the renovations in one day. And I

1           would also like to mention that in addition to  
2           their help with that, I do work in the commercial  
3           real estate industry, and thanks to FPL's power, we  
4           are seeing an increased interest from users coming  
5           down from the north, and they are very pleased with  
6           what FPL is providing.

7           Thank you.

8           CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much, Ms.  
9           Kaiser.

10          Anyone have any questions?

11          Next up, Peter Hernandez.

12          MR. HERNANDEZ: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman,  
13          members of the Commission. My name is Peter  
14          Hernandez, I am a resident --

15          CHAIRMAN CLARK: Mr. Hernandez, my apologies,  
16          let me swear I you in before you begin.

17          (Whereupon, Peter Hernandez was sworn by  
18          Chairman Clark.)

19          MR. HERNANDEZ: Yes, sir.

20          CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. You are  
21          recognized.

22          MR. HERNANDEZ: Good afternoon again. Mr.  
23          Chair and members of the Commission. My name is  
24          Peter Hernandez. I am a resident, small business  
25          owner, property owner and a former City

1 Commissioner for the City of Hollywood.

2 My observation of FPL has been that they are a  
3 forward-thinking company. The clean energy center  
4 that they did in Port Everglades is  
5 state-of-the-art and has the future in mind for our  
6 children in order for them to be able to prosper on  
7 something that is sustainable.

8 As a former City Commissioner, I experienced  
9 when FPL retrofitted all of the LED lights in the  
10 City of Hollywood in order for our streets to be  
11 brighter and safer, and therefore, I am supportive  
12 of their request.

13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and have a good  
14 afternoon, everyone.

15 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much, Mr.  
16 Hernandez.

17 Anyone have any questions?

18 All right. Our next three speakers, Stephen  
19 Clements, Adrian Madriz and Ira Waitz.

20 Stephen Clements, are you on the line?

21 MR. CLEMENTS: Yes, I am on the line.

22 CHAIRMAN CLARK: You are recognized, sir.

23 MR. CLEMENTS: Thank you. I -- good  
24 afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the  
25 Commission. I am speaking to you as Financial

1           Controller of the Bonaventure Resort and Spa, which  
2           is located in Weston, Florida, in Broward County,  
3           and I am calling in support of FPL and just to tell  
4           you a little bit about its terrific relationship  
5           with businesses such as ours.

6           We have -- we are a nine building resort, plus  
7           a large conference center and spa, which was built  
8           in the early '80s, and some of our infrastructure  
9           is pretty dated right now. But with FPL's help and  
10          assistance, we have been able to continue using the  
11          infrastructure that we have, and have excellent  
12          service with it.

13          During the last few years, we have noticed  
14          that the amount of power outages caused by storms  
15          have decreased substantially, which, of course,  
16          enables our guests to enjoy the facility rather  
17          than enduring power outages.

18          Also, we, last year during the COVID-19  
19          crisis, incurred a financial hardship and worked  
20          very diligently with our account representatives  
21          and management at FPL to help us through to keep  
22          service going and be able to make proper  
23          arrangements so that we could keep our accounts  
24          current, but work it out that we would also be in  
25          conjunction with our cash flow, and that

1 partnership and understanding has been tremendous  
2 to our success.

3 And finally, I want to be able to say that  
4 back in 2017, when FPL needed emergency crews, we  
5 were able to house them during the Hurricane Irma,  
6 and we just worked very well in partnership with  
7 the utility. And we have seen improvements in  
8 service through the years, and whatever they need  
9 to make it happen, we want to support because it's  
10 for the good of the economy and good for the local  
11 community.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you very  
14 much, Mr. Clements.

15 Any questions?

16 Next up Adrian Madriz. Adrian Madriz.

17 Next speaker, Ira Waitz.

18 MR. WAITZ: This is Ira.

19 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Mr. Waitz, you are  
20 recognized.

21 MR. WAITZ: Thank you.

22 My name is Ira Waitz, 201 East Las Olas  
23 Boulevard, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. I currently  
24 work for the Stiles Corporation, a 70-year old Ft.  
25 Lauderdale based real estate development company,

1           and I have worked in the real estate development  
2           industry for about 35 years, and during those  
3           years, many, if not most of my projects were in the  
4           Florida Power & Light service area. I primarily  
5           work with engineering and construction divisions at  
6           FPL, but also set up accounts for temporary and  
7           permanent service.

8                        We recently completed a 430,000 square foot  
9           shopping center development in West Dade County  
10          where Florida Power & Light brought in the  
11          infrastructure to service this development, and  
12          their efforts were well coordinated with our  
13          development and construction teams, and electric  
14          service was provided timely, so we were able to  
15          meet our deliverables to our major tenants.

16                       I am currently managing the development of  
17          three other projects located in Dade, preferred and  
18          St. Johns Counties, and the Florida Power & Light  
19          representatives assigned to these projects are  
20          doing an outstanding job with communication and  
21          infrastructure design efforts.

22                       Having worked with FPL over such a long period  
23          of time, they appear to have made many customer  
24          service improvements, which in turn makes my job as  
25          a development manager less stressful, and as the

1           timely delivery of permanent electric power to  
2           these projects is critical to our success.

3           As it relates to rate increases for FPL. I  
4           know nobody likes rate increases, so I am not in  
5           support -- not not in support. I'm going to leave  
6           the merits of their rate increase to other  
7           witnesses that have better knowledge of the  
8           internal workings of Florida Power & Light.

9           Thank you.

10           CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you very  
11           much, Mr. Waitz.

12           Anybody have any questions?

13           Next three speakers are Patricia Chukerman,  
14           Donald Collins, Stibalys Gomez.

15           Ms. Chukerman.

16           MS. CHUCKERMAN: I am here?

17           CHAIRMAN CLARK: You are recognized.

18           MS. CHUCKERMAN: I think you have to swear me  
19           in.

20           CHAIRMAN CLARK: You were -- you are sworn in  
21           already?

22           MS. CHUCKERMAN: Okay. Great.

23           So I am calling on -- I live in Dania Beach,  
24           Florida. I have been an FPL customer since I moved  
25           into my house. And I am happy to say that since

1           2008, we have had maybe five brownouts. We have  
2           never had an interruption of services since 2008.  
3           I feel the price is fair for the service that I  
4           get. I would like to continue to get continue to  
5           get this great service. I think a price increase  
6           request is fair.

7           I also think that the way they handled the  
8           payment plans during COVID was a big help to all  
9           those people who needed it.

10          I think that's all. I think FPL is a great  
11          community partner, and they try and work really  
12          hard with their customers to make sure that  
13          everything is going fine.

14          CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you very  
15          much --

16          MS. CHUCKERMAN: Thank you for the  
17          opportunity.

18          CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much, Ms.  
19          Chukerman. We appreciate that.

20          Anyone have any questions?

21          All right. Next speaker, Donald Collins.  
22          Donald Collins.

23          Next speaker --

24          MR. MADRIZ: Again, hello, hello?

25          CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, Mr. Collins, yes. You

1 are recognized.

2 MR. MADRIZ: No. No. This is not  
3 Mr. Collins. Hello, yes. My name is Adrian  
4 Madriz. My name was called earlier. I apologize.  
5 I wasn't able to get into the meeting, can I speak  
6 now?

7 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Your name was what again?

8 MR. MADRIZ: Adrain Madriz, OR Adrian Madriz.

9 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, Mr. Madriz, you are  
10 recognized.

11 MR. MADRIZ: Thank you very much.

12 My comments today are regarding the FPL rate  
13 increase. I am strongly against this rate  
14 increase. I believe that FPL has placed an undue  
15 burden already enough as it is on all of their  
16 utilities bill payers in the state of Florida,  
17 especially during the pandemic, in which they were  
18 very inflexible with the majority of people who  
19 could not pay their utilities due to some kind of  
20 strain, some kind of economic stresser. So I don't  
21 think they are in a position right now to be asking  
22 the very people that they have been taking  
23 advantage of throughout the entire pandemic for a  
24 rate increase given their past performance. And I  
25 very much would like to see a situation in the

1 future where any future rate increases have to be  
2 approved by voters through a state referendum.

3 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you very  
4 much, Mr. Madriz.

5 Anyone have any questions?

6 Thank you for your testimony today.

7 MR. MADRIZ: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Next up we will call again  
9 Mr. Donald Collins.

10 All right. Stibalys Gomez.

11 MS. GOMEZ: Yes. Hello.

12 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, Ms. Gomez, were you on  
13 our list last night?

14 MS. GOMEZ: No, not last night, but on one of  
15 the previous ones.

16 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Okay. All right. You are  
17 recognized.

18 MS. GOMEZ: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

19 Hello everyone, my name is Stibalys Gomez. So  
20 I would born here in Miami in 1996. I will be 25  
21 in August, and I live in the City of West Miami.

22 Today I am here as a community member and  
23 organizer with the Miami Tenant Union to speak  
24 about your plan to raise rates by 20 percent.

25 I had the amazing opportunity to speak at a

1 previous meeting and hear the opinions of other  
2 community members, but I would be lying to you if I  
3 said I wasn't disappointed. The vast majority were  
4 in favor of this increase of -- (inaudible) -- as  
5 their reason for support.

6 At the last meeting, I told you my story, my  
7 concerns and shared experiences working with  
8 tenants from North Miami all the way down to  
9 Florida City. Today I am going to debunk some  
10 myths surrounding this increase, and help you all  
11 keep us in mind as you hear other testimony,  
12 because we should be making informed decisions, and  
13 my concern is that that isn't the case for Miami.

14 Let me begin with some myths of how this will  
15 be an investment into clean energy to combat the  
16 climate crisis.

17 For background, I am a graduate of the  
18 Catalyst Miami Career program, graduate of the CLEO  
19 Institute CLEO Speaker Network, was a training team  
20 lettered for the Climate Mobilization, where I  
21 taught individuals across the country how to give  
22 Climate emergency response training. I am a  
23 journalism major and have been involved with  
24 countless individuals, organizations and elected  
25 officials who center around climate crisis process

1 to put in place solutions that we need.

2 To start off, FPL has said that we -- in order  
3 to reach -- the goal of going toward zero  
4 emissions, and FPL's parent company, NextEra,  
5 enjoys boasting about how it is a leader in the  
6 clean energy transition, yet it is still one of the  
7 few utility companies that has not pledged to  
8 decarbonize. Instead, you will see phrases like  
9 reducing carbon intensity, which gives them the  
10 freedom to continue polluting. FPL also fails to  
11 support legislation that would increase renewable  
12 usage, and instead, actively lobbies against it.

13 Another myth is that they say we use clean  
14 American natural gas. Natural gas does not equal  
15 clean energy. In fact, the drilling and extraction  
16 of natural gas emits methane, which has an up to 56  
17 times more potent warming potential than carbon  
18 dioxide.

19 FPL also has been converting shutdown coal  
20 plants into natural gas plants, which will continue  
21 to pollute. For example, the Gulf Power's Plant  
22 Crist converted into natural gas was renamed the  
23 Gulf Clean Energy Center, despite the fact that it  
24 will not be releasing clean energy.

25 I, for one, don't want a future where we

1 continue to use fossil fuels. And I am sure those  
2 of you here today that understand and believe in  
3 the science would agree that the transition also to  
4 fossil fuels isn't something we can debate anymore.  
5 It has to be done.

6 As of yesterday, we are at 419 parts per  
7 million --

8 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Gomez. Ms.  
9 Gomez. Ms. Gomez --

10 MS. GOMEZ: I am so sorry, did I --

11 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Your time is up, Ms. Gomez.  
12 Wrap your comments up, please.

13 MS. GOMEZ: Well, just to conclude, I hope  
14 that everyone here today does more research into  
15 this, and that you guys make an informed decision,  
16 and not to just believe everything that is told.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Gomez.

19 Anybody have any questions for Ms. Gomez?

20 All right. Next three speakers will be Joel  
21 Morales, Clinton Shannon, Herman Younger.

22 Mr. Morales. Mr. Morales.

23 Clinton Shannon, Clinton Shannon.

24 MR. SHANNON: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman.

25 Clint Shannon.

1           CHAIRMAN CLARK: You are recognized.

2           MR. SHANNON: Thank you, sir.

3           My name is Clint Shannon, and I am the Chief  
4 of Police for the City of Palm Beach Gardens in  
5 Palm Beach County.

6           I just wanted to take a minute of your time  
7 today to discuss and inform you of our relationship  
8 with -- with Florida Power & Light, and  
9 specifically with Florida Power & Light corporate  
10 security division.

11           We have formed an outstanding partnership with  
12 them. They are an active member and participants  
13 in our Chiefs of Police Association in the county  
14 and -- and have a lot of support for law  
15 enforcement throughout Palm Beach County.

16           We share training. We support each other's  
17 endeavors in our roles. We share intelligence on  
18 related criminal activity and shared interests. We  
19 work together with securing infrastructure sites,  
20 and we collectively work together company-wide when  
21 we mobilize for storm preparation.

22           I just wanted to mention our -- our  
23 outstanding relationship is -- is quite furthered  
24 by the professional quality employees that Florida  
25 Power & Light have, and they always display a

1 cooperative effort with law enforcement.

2 The City also worked closely on many projects  
3 with Florida Power & Light, including a lot of  
4 clean initiatives. But I just wanted to take a  
5 minute of your time, and my purpose today for  
6 calling in would be just to discuss the quality  
7 employees and the cooperative effort, and the  
8 professionalism of Florida Power & Light. We  
9 realize you have a tough decision and a tough job  
10 making these decisions that you are faced with  
11 today.

12 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much for your  
13 comments, Mr. Shannon.

14 Anyone have any questions?

15 Next speaker is Herman Younger. Herman  
16 Younger.

17 All right. Next three speakers will be Marion  
18 Skalicky, Todd Huffstickler, Tanya Burke. Marion  
19 Skalicky, are available?

20 MS. SKALICKY: Yes, I am here.

21 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. You are  
22 recognized for three minutes.

23 MS. SKALICKY: Thank you.

24 My name is Marion Ruckel Skalicky. I am a  
25 customer in Niceville, which is in Okaloosa County

1 in Northwest Florida.

2 As a residential customer, I have experienced  
3 fair prices and rare power outages, despite severe  
4 storms. As a business owner and landlord, our  
5 company was able to improve energy efficiency by  
6 replacing our shopping center roof with reflective  
7 roofing and replacing parking lot lighting with --  
8 (inaudible). The energy cost savings enables us to  
9 help keep the common area utility costs down.  
10 Because of Gulf Power, Florida Power & Light's  
11 assistance, my company won the Florida PSC's EEE  
12 award in March 2021 for these energy improvements.

13 As a real estate developer, I have experienced  
14 excellent customer service in design and  
15 engineering phases of new neighborhood power and  
16 lighting.

17 As a businesses owner, I understand it  
18 sometimes costs money to maintain the level of  
19 service and value we currently enjoy in the state  
20 of Florida. I support Gulf Power and Florida Power  
21 & Light in the price increase.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Skalicky.

24 MR. COLLINS: This is Don Collins. Don  
25 Collins is on.

1           CHAIRMAN CLARK:  Anyone have any questions for  
2           Ms. Skalicky?

3           All right.  Who was it?

4           MR. COLLINS:  Don Collins is on.

5           CHAIRMAN CLARK:  Yes, Mr. Collins, is that  
6           you?

7           MR. COLLINS:  Yes, sir.

8           CHAIRMAN CLARK:  All right.  You are  
9           recognized for three minutes, sir.

10          MR. COLLINS:  Thank you, sir.

11                 My name is Don Collins, I am Senior  
12                 Vice-President with First Florida Bank, a division  
13                 of The First here in the Okaloosa County market.  
14                 We cover Okaloosa and Walton Counties.  We deal a  
15                 lot with construction, both commercial and  
16                 residential, dealing with contractors.  And I would  
17                 like to say that Florida Power and Gulf Power, the  
18                 local representatives have made my job a lot easier  
19                 by helping with the development process, as Marion  
20                 stated, working with us and getting everything done  
21                 properly and on time.

22                 The customer service from the local group is  
23                 phenomenal, they are always there to help, to  
24                 communicate, to work with and talk to you.  And any  
25                 storm we've had in the past, they've always been

1 very visible, very cooperative and help get our  
2 power restored in a very timely manner.

3 So from a business perspective and the banking  
4 world, we support Gulf Power and Florida Power 100  
5 percent.

6 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much, Mr.  
7 Collins.

8 Anyone have any questions for Mr. Collins?

9 All right. Next speaker, Todd Huffstickler.

10 MR. HUFFSTICKLER: Hi. Good afternoon. I am  
11 Todd Huffstickler. Co-owner of Vann Data Services  
12 in Daytona Beach, Florida. We are located in  
13 Volusia County, and we have been a satisfied  
14 customer of Florida Power & Light since 1978. Vann  
15 Data Services provides IT service and support for  
16 many small and medium businesses across Central  
17 Florida, and our clients depend on us to keep their  
18 computer networks up and running 24/7.

19 With that being said, it is paramount that  
20 power to our building is clean and reliable so that  
21 our servers and networks are up and running, and we  
22 can support our clients every day.

23 We are constantly seeing FPL in our area  
24 upgrading their equipment, including replacing many  
25 wooden power poles with concrete poles to

1           strengthen their infrastructure.

2           So we understand that with increased  
3           infrastructure costs increased, we understand it's  
4           a necessary cost of just doing business. So we are  
5           very happy with Florida Power & Light and their  
6           services and response over the years, and depend on  
7           them to continue to provide this essential service.  
8           So we feel that Florida Power & Light is a great  
9           partner and understand the needs to move forward.

10           Thank you.

11           CHAIRMAN CLARK: Mr. Huffstickler, we are  
12           having a very difficult time hearing you. If you  
13           can get a little closer to the mic, or make a quick  
14           adjustment for us.

15           MR. HUFFSTICKLER: Absolutely. I had my  
16           headset on it. I thought it was okay. Can you  
17           hear me now?

18           CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, sir, that's much better.

19           MR. HUFFSTICKLER: All right. You want me --  
20           I will go one more time. Hear we go.

21           I am Todd Huffstickler, co-owner of Vann Data  
22           Services in Daytona Beach, Florida, located in  
23           Volusia County. We have been a satisfied customer  
24           of Florida Power & Light since 1978.

25           Vann Data Services provides IT service and

1 support for many small to medium businesses across  
2 Central Florida. Our clients depend on us to keep  
3 their computer networks up and running 24/7. With  
4 that being said, it's paramount that power to our  
5 building is clean and reliable so that our servers  
6 and networks are up and running, and we can support  
7 our clients every day.

8 We are constantly seeing FPL in our area  
9 upgrading their equipment, including replacing many  
10 wooden power poles with concrete poles to  
11 strengthen their infrastructure. We understand  
12 that with increased infrastructure comes increased  
13 costs, and we understand it's a necessary cost of  
14 doing business.

15 We have been very happy with FPL and their  
16 services and response over the years, and depend on  
17 them to continue to provide this essential service,  
18 so we feel Florida Power & Light is a great partner  
19 with us.

20 Thank you. Hopefully that was better.

21 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much. Much  
22 better.

23 Anyone have any questions?

24 Next up, Tanya Burke.

25 MS. BURKE: Good afternoon. Tanya Burke. I

1 row side at 618 Clear Lake Avenue, West Palm Beach,  
2 Florida, and I am a customer of Florida Power &  
3 Light.

4 Do I need to be sworn in, Mr. Chairman?

5 CHAIRMAN CLARK: No, ma'am, you are  
6 recognized.

7 MS. BURKE: Okay. Well, good afternoon, sir,  
8 and members of the Commission.

9 Again, my name is Tanya Burke. I was born and  
10 raised in West Palm Beach, Florida, in the  
11 Roosevelt Estates community. In 1984, I left to  
12 pursue my educational and professional career. I  
13 returned in 2015 to the same community to care for  
14 my aging parents. Currently, I am the caregiver of  
15 my 89-year-old father.

16 Please know that I am in support of the rate  
17 increase for several reasons, but will share two.

18 First, Florida Power & Light must continue to  
19 make strategic capital investments to its  
20 infrastructure to prevent failures before, during  
21 and after major storms. Continuous investments  
22 improve the quality and longevity of uninterrupted  
23 service and their competitive advantage.

24 Second, power is essential and needed. At  
25 home, I need safe, reliable and consistent service

1           for my father, who depends on power for various  
2           equipment and devices as a part of his care. If it  
3           costs a bit more to receive this type of service,  
4           then it's the best value for me. He depends on me  
5           to provide safe, reliable, consistent care for him,  
6           and I depend on Florida Power & Light to provide,  
7           safe, reliable and world class service, not only to  
8           our household, but also the greater community in  
9           Palm Beach County.

10                    Thank you in advance, Florida Power & Light,  
11                    for delivering and keeping your promise.

12                    CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you very  
13                    much, Ms. Burke.

14                    Any questions for Ms. Burke?

15                    All right. Next three speakers, Lynne Larkin,  
16                    Mark Shelton, Luis Gonzalez-Mendez, beginning  
17                    William Ms. Larkin.

18                    MS. LARKIN: Good afternoon. Thank you,  
19                    Chairman Clark. This is Lynne Larkin from Vero  
20                    Beach, Florida, a fairly recent customer of FPL.

21                    I wanted to say first to some of the comments  
22                    that have been made. We are talking about a base  
23                    rate increase here, and isn't taking into  
24                    consideration the fact that it doesn't include  
25                    storm -- extra storm charges and such that do also

1 get taken into account at the Public Service  
2 Commission after each storm. And the point I think  
3 was made earlier that regular upgrades and such are  
4 not part of this increase.

5 A lot of the customers don't have easy access  
6 to the finances that it takes that really would  
7 take a forensic accountant to determine the  
8 accuracy of the numbers, but in summary, I will say  
9 that there is ample money available for FPL to do  
10 everything that they have said that their goals  
11 were. And so I do not understand why all of this  
12 gigantic increase is coming so quickly. Not  
13 everyone has access also to the Public Counsel's  
14 office, for whom we have great appreciation, and I  
15 hope other than the outstanding plaudits that are  
16 given to FPL for their volunteer service, et  
17 cetera, that our real focus is on the numbers, and  
18 the experts can verify the extraordinary amount of  
19 money that is being asked for here when the things  
20 such as solar power are not being invested in as  
21 much, as someone said, the unclean natural gas.

22 Having much of the work that FPL does now here  
23 in Vero Beach, Florida, I note -- I note that a lot  
24 of it is contracted out, and to the lowest bidder.  
25 So a good deal of what their normal expenses are be

1           also taken into consideration when talking about  
2           giving rate increases of this size.

3                       Finally, there is really no guarantee that  
4           this -- this type of oversight is going to ensure  
5           that FPL uses this money the way they say they will  
6           in past hearings -- (inaudible) -- testimony given,  
7           and I am hoping that that a non-expert attorney,  
8           such as myself, would also rely on what is truly  
9           the nature of this inquiry, which is do they need  
10          this much money.

11                      So again, thank you for your time, and I hope  
12          you do not approve of this rate increase.

13                      CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you very  
14          much, Ms. Larkin, for your comments.

15                      Anyone have any questions for Ms. Larkin?

16                      Next up, Mark Shelton.

17                      MR. SHELTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can  
18          you hear me okay?

19                      CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, sir, loud and clear.

20                      MR. SHELTON: Thank you.

21                      My name is Mark Shelton. I'm at 212 South  
22          Hampton Club Way, St. Augustine, Florida, 32092,  
23          and I am an existing FPL customer.

24                      I understand FPL is making upgrades to their  
25          system. In my experience, they have been very

1           reliable and responsive. I have seen and  
2           appreciate their efforts on renewable energy, such  
3           as solar farms, and other new efficiencies in their  
4           system. There certainly seems to be a noticeable  
5           difference with FPL, and they are cheaper than what  
6           I have experienced elsewhere in Florida in the last  
7           15 years before I came on with FPL.

8                     Although, I rarely want rates to go up, I am  
9           of the mindset that you have get what you pay for.  
10          And with FPL, I believe that I am getting a good  
11          product.

12                    This is all I have to say, and thank you for  
13          your time.

14                    CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much, Mr.  
15          Shelton.

16                    Anyone have any questions?

17                    Next up, Luis Gonzalez Menendez.

18                    MR. GONZALEZ-MENDEZ: Thank you, Chairman.  
19          Can you hear me?

20                    CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, sir, loud and clear.

21                    MR. GONZALEZ-MENDEZ: Excellent.

22                    Okay. So my name is Luis Gonzalez-Mendez, and  
23          I am actually here in representation of Trividia  
24          Health. It's a medical device manufacturer in  
25          Broward County, and also as a resident.

1           But specifically from the manufacturing  
2           standpoint, and a company that has been in the  
3           Broward County for over 35 years, we being a key  
4           partner with Florida Power & Light to really  
5           develop and understand the good manufacturing  
6           process for an environmental friendly manufacturing  
7           and the consumption of power.

8           In the last five years, personally, as  
9           Director of Progress and Engineering, I partnered  
10          with the local team of Florida Power & Light to  
11          really go through a journey of reduction and  
12          consumption of power to increase the efficiency of  
13          the manufacturing, and they collaborate to help  
14          with us their smart grid, and understanding the  
15          consumption of the power here.

16          Florida Power & Light has done a great job to  
17          inform us and collaborate with us to maintain the  
18          manufacturing that we have today in a reliable way.  
19          As a medical device manufacturer, reliable energy  
20          is critical. For most people, losing power for a  
21          couple of hours is a problem. For us, losing  
22          powers for less than 10 minutes is a big problem,  
23          and they have been able to deliver renewal energy  
24          all these years, and work with us to have a  
25          reliable manufacturing.

1           Now, I know that they are requesting this  
2           increase, and I understand why. Specifically for  
3           manufacturing, we are starting here in Florida to  
4           start the journey of what we call the industry 4.0,  
5           or smart manufacturing. Where, in the next 10  
6           years, Florida is trying to get in the advanced  
7           manufacturing environment where power is going to  
8           be critical. So now the reliability of the power  
9           is not a situation of five or 10 minutes. It's  
10          having power reliable for a lot of the  
11          manufacturers in a minute base, and I know that  
12          will require a lot of investment for the future,  
13          and I see how that is necessary.

14                 So with that, I will say that I thank Florida  
15          Power & Light for everything that they have done  
16          for the manufacturing for medical device down here  
17          in Broward, and I am looking forward to continue  
18          working with them for the next 10, 20 years.

19                 Thank you.

20                 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much,  
21          Mr. Mendez.

22                 Anyone have any questions?

23                 All right. Next three speakers Dendy Herndon,  
24          Ben Benavente, Missie Barletto.

25                 Dendy Herndon. Dendy Herndon.

1 All right. Next Ben Benavente. Ben  
2 Benavente.

3 Next is Missie Barletto.

4 MS. BARLETTO: Yes. Good afternoon, this is  
5 Missie Barletto. I am the Public Works Director  
6 for the City of Delray Beach, and I am calling this  
7 afternoon to echo what many of the other local  
8 government partners with FPL have said about what a  
9 great partner they are with us.

10 The City of Delray Beach is extremely  
11 sustainability minded, and we work with them on  
12 several different projects. We are a partner in  
13 the SolarTogether program.

14 FPL is currently in the process of replacing  
15 all sodium halogen lights in the city, about just  
16 under 4,000 streetlights, with LED lights at no  
17 cost to the city -- no upfront cost to the City,  
18 let me be clear about that, which will be the  
19 equivalent of taking about 172 cars off the road.

20 Additionally, they have partnered with us to  
21 provide free of cost EV chargers for electric  
22 vehicles in our downtown area.

23 In addition to these things, FPL is working  
24 consistently to help provide consistent power  
25 supply to our residents through a hardening

1 project. They are replacing all of their wooden  
2 poles with cement poles.

3 And in those areas of our city where our tree  
4 canopy prevents a consistent provision of service,  
5 they are working at no cost to the city or the  
6 residents to provide undergrounding for consistent  
7 power supply in those areas.

8 And I thank you very much for the opportunity  
9 to speak.

10 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you very  
11 much.

12 Next -- any questions?

13 Next three speakers Andrew Price, Carl  
14 Laystrom --

15 MR. YOUNG: I'm so sorry. This is --

16 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes.

17 MR. YOUNGER: This is Herman Younger. I had  
18 trouble connecting earlier, but I am on the line  
19 now.

20 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Mr. Younger, you  
21 are recognized for three minutes.

22 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

23 My name is Herman Younger. I am a Sierra Club  
24 organizer based in Gainesville, Florida.

25 FPL has always been a bad actor. On low

1 rates, they say that they are the lowest, but this  
2 is false. They are currently the seventh highest  
3 IOU rate in the nation.

4 The ACEEE reports rank FPL 51 of 52 major  
5 utility companies when it comes to energy  
6 efficiency.

7 And on great customer service, FPL wants to  
8 increase rates by 6.5 billion over the next four  
9 years. FPL requests substantial base rate  
10 increases over the next four years.

11 FPL attempted to end shutoff moratoriums at  
12 the height of a second wave of the pandemic.  
13 600,000 Florida customers are behind on their  
14 electric bills, how will that end?

15 FPL is making customers pay for plants that  
16 they are producing. Customers may foot a bill for  
17 FPL Turkey Point sewage plant, shouldn't Biscayne  
18 Bay benefit.

19 And FPL pushed to end the shutoff moratorium  
20 multiple times amid a pandemic -- (inaudible) --  
21 regulators reject -- (inaudible) -- moratorium on  
22 utility cutoffs. 30,000 people are behind on FPL  
23 bills as power shutoffs resume saying that they  
24 cannot afford it.

25 And FPL wants to decrease simple ways for

1 customer to lessen their power bills. FPL is  
2 seeking state approval to slash energy efficiency  
3 goals.

4 FPL attempted to block Florida Rising, an  
5 organization focused on racial and economic  
6 justice, from participating in the rate case of  
7 historically white dominant base. And our fossil  
8 fuels leaders, FPL is converting shutdown coal  
9 plants and converting them to natural gas plants,  
10 continuing to pollute with natural gas.

11 FPL tried to trick the Floridians into voting  
12 for a utility backed a measure that would limit  
13 rooftop expansion and net metering. So this  
14 narrative that FPL has always been a good actor is  
15 a false narrative, and I want to make a statement  
16 that -- that this is not the case, and it has never  
17 been the case.

18 Thank you so much.

19 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you very  
20 much, Mr. Younger.

21 Anyone have any questions?

22 All right. Next speaker, Andrew Price.

23 MR. PRICE: Yes, good afternoon, Mr. Chairman,  
24 and board members.

25 I will start by saying that I am a resident in

1 Palm City, Martin County, Florida. And I will  
2 start by saying that while I have been here for the  
3 past eight years, and I will also state that prior  
4 to that, I was with, for 25 years, Dominion Power  
5 from the state of Virginia, as well as, for a  
6 10-year period, with the Southern Company in the  
7 state of Georgia.

8 Comparatively speaking, FPL rates are lower  
9 than my last, or previous power companies or  
10 entities, and that FPL appear to be on the cutting  
11 edge as being environmentally friendly utilizing  
12 solar energy, et cetera.

13 The last rate increase as of 2017, and I -- I  
14 listened to one of our speak colleagues -- one of  
15 our speaking colleagues of today indicating that  
16 they wanted -- FPL wants an increase of about 20  
17 percent. That would equate to on or about, if you  
18 did the math, of about four percent each year,  
19 somewhere in that average.

20 I agree with FPL by my standards, or opinion,  
21 is below the average of the last two states in  
22 which I resided in. And lastly, I support a rate  
23 increase for this service due to the fact that,  
24 since I have been here, I feel that FPL services  
25 have been impeccable.

1           And thank you for your time, Mr. Chairman, and  
2           board members.

3           CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much, Mr.  
4           Price.

5           Any questions for Mr. Price?

6           Next up, Carl Laystrom.

7           MR. LAYSTROM: Mr. Chair, my name is Carl  
8           Laystrom. Can you hear me?

9           CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, sir. You are  
10          recognized.

11          MR. LAYSTROM: Thank you.

12          My name is Carl Laystrom. I live in Broward  
13          County Florida. I have been a resident of Broward  
14          County for 60 years.

15          I support the rate increase. As a small  
16          business owner and as a personal user of FPL power,  
17          I found them to be outstanding during all of our  
18          storms, impeccable service is what I just heard,  
19          and I would absolutely agree with that.

20          With five years of no rate increases, it's  
21          time -- it's time for those dollars to flow in.  
22          We've all been trying to hold our belts, but we  
23          have to adjust our rates as time goes on to take  
24          care of employees, employee benefits, as well as  
25          the hardening of our infrastructure, the investment

1 in wind and solar energy is important.

2 And on a personal note, two weeks ago, I had  
3 the power go off on my street due to a transformer  
4 issue caused by some construction in the neighbor's  
5 house across the street. FPL had their trucks  
6 there within two hours. They worked all night in  
7 difficult heat and rain both, and got our power on  
8 that night, kept us informed throughout. Their  
9 employees were absolutely outstanding, and then  
10 came by with three more trucks the next day in  
11 order to complete the work.

12 And with that I would again recommend approval  
13 of the rate increase. I thank you very much.

14 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Thank you, Mr.  
15 Laystrom.

16 Any questions from any member?

17 All right. The next three witnesses will all  
18 three have to be sworn in. I am going to go ahead  
19 and start with you Shahin Etessam. Shahin Etessam.

20 MR. ETESSAM: Yes. Yes. Good afternoon, Mr.  
21 Chairman. I am here.

22 (Whereupon, Shahin Etessam Cosner was sworn by  
23 Chairman Clark.)

24 MR. ETESSAM: I do.

25 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. You are

1 recognized, sir.

2 MR. ETESSAM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good  
3 afternoon, Commissioners.

4 My name is Shahin Etessam. I am president of  
5 CD Group and Greatstone Development, offices at  
6 7480 SW 40th Street, Miami. I am a developer,  
7 residents and FPL customer.

8 For the past several decades, I have worked  
9 very closely with FPL as it pertained to my  
10 development projects. FPL has often been taken for  
11 granted. The simple act of going to a light switch  
12 and turn the power on comes at a massive amount of  
13 work and organization behind the scenes, which FPL  
14 is actually expert at. Their availability,  
15 professionalism and knowledge is considerable, and  
16 very much recognized.

17 FPL's relentless pursuit of finding solutions  
18 to our energy needs is also remarkable. FPL's  
19 ability for continued R&D is highly visible; EV,  
20 solar and many others.

21 I am also a helicopter pilot, and often fly  
22 over the massive solar field just west of Miami  
23 Executive Airport. As I turn whiskey, or west  
24 arrival to -- (inaudible) -- I see the massive  
25 impressive field that was developed and built by

1 FPL.

2 I have witnessed the project being built  
3 step-by-step, super organized and planned, which is  
4 a testament to FPL's commitment to a better and  
5 cleaner energy for everyone they serve.

6 The site is the first of 14 sites FPL plans on  
7 building throughout the state. The West Kendall  
8 Solar Energy Center takes up to 465 acres of land,  
9 and will be able to generate 75 megawatts of  
10 electricity, which is roughly equivalent of  
11 powering 15,000 homes.

12 FPL's ability to provide ample support during  
13 and after a storm prevalence in South Florida is  
14 also incredible. FPL's commitment to serve the  
15 community and most vulnerable to various plans and  
16 programs definitely.

17 As a developer, I see price increase and labor  
18 shortage in every aspect of our development. As a  
19 South Florida resident, I also have noticed price  
20 increases in everything that we buy; fuel, food,  
21 clothing, health care and everything else. So  
22 although I am not an expert in rate increase, I am  
23 totally in support of FPL's judgment in their needs  
24 to further accommodate its customers.

25 Mr. Chairman, and the Commissioners, thank you

1 for the opportunity, and have a great afternoon.

2 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much, Mr.

3 Etessam.

4 Any questions?

5 All right. Our next speaker also needs to be  
6 sworn in. Esperanza Cazo. Esperanza Cazo. Cazo.

7 All right. Next Jose Jimenez. Jose Jimenez.  
8 Gary Rostran. Gary Rostran.

9 Marilyne Martin.

10 MS. MARTIN: I am here.

11 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Ms. Martin, you are  
12 recognized for three minutes.

13 MS. MARTIN: Hi. I am a resident of Venice,  
14 Florida and FPL customer. My name is Marilynne  
15 Martin. I am here to oppose the rate increase.

16 First, I want to express my displeasure with  
17 these meetings being virtual instead of in person,  
18 but I oppose it because the same reason I opposed  
19 the last one four years ago, because the rate of  
20 return is way too high, and it should be in the  
21 eight to nine percent range if you compare this low  
22 interest rate period over the last 10 to 12 years,  
23 and their rate of return is just unjustified, and I  
24 expect that to be challenged.

25 I also believe that the capital expansion

1 program for this environment after having the whole  
2 economy destroyed this past year by politicians, it  
3 just isn't warranted. It can't be a Florida be  
4 affordable if the state of Florida is putting  
5 through a new \$75 million program to help people in  
6 need.

7 I am also a little disappointed with the  
8 deception, and it continued today, from FPL which  
9 is our rates are lower. I have -- I couldn't find  
10 one from 15 years ago, but my bill from August 2009  
11 has a base rate of \$5.33 a month, and our current  
12 bill is 8.34. That's a 56.5 percent increase. The  
13 nonfuel charges under a thousand is up 25.2 percent  
14 over the same period, and over a thousand is 23  
15 point -- 22.2 percent. And these new requests will  
16 bring these even higher.

17 They keep saying it, but they keep trying to  
18 take credit for fuel. And as you all know, it's a  
19 pass-through and they shouldn't take credit for it.  
20 I support the pass-through accounting treatment of  
21 fuel because of timing and ability. So the  
22 deception needs to stop. And it's also in your --  
23 you know, in their petition, page two.

24 I challenge anybody to show me a CEO that  
25 talks about -- let me read this to you: Generate

1 additional total annual revenues of \$1,108 million  
2 to be effective January 1st, 2022. Nobody talks  
3 like that. It's \$1.1 billion. And I would give  
4 \$1,000 if anybody can give me a video of Mr. Silagy  
5 saying that to the shareholders and to his  
6 investment community, that he is going to deliver  
7 1,108 million. That's just not the way to talk.  
8 It's meant to be deceptive.

9           You know, about a month ago, I sat in the same  
10 seat I am sitting in there next to my commuter, and  
11 a big bang and my commuter went blank, there was an  
12 outage, and I went next door and they were out.  
13 And I give a big A plus to the repair, the rank and  
14 file FPL employees, they had it fixed in an  
15 hour-and-a-half. But I give an F to the FPL  
16 executives because they keep cutting the vegetation  
17 management budgets, and therefore, the reason for  
18 the outage was vines growing into the terminals of  
19 the equipment.

20           Now, the guy who repaired it got his stuff  
21 done, but there is still vines on that pole, so is  
22 next month it going to out? That was a  
23 non-avoidable -- that was an avoidable outage that  
24 could have been, if they did proper vegetation  
25 management, which is basic for utilities. I would

1           also like to say that when I call customer service,  
2           they didn't know that the power was out, so the  
3           smart meters aren't working.

4           I want to thank J.R. Kelly for his time. He  
5           was always accessible, but I am a little  
6           disappointed that Mr. Gentry didn't give more  
7           detailed comments today for the people. We depend  
8           upon your analysis, and testimony went in three  
9           days ago, there should have been some opinions  
10          shown.

11          And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

12          CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much for your  
13          comments today, Ms. Martin.

14          Anyone have any comments for Ms. Martin?

15          All right. Next up Yadira Capaz. Yadira  
16          Capaz, you are going to need to be sworn in if you  
17          are on the line.

18          All right. Not available.

19          MR. DUNNUCK: Hey, good afternoon. This is  
20          John Dunnuck with Broward College .

21          CHAIRMAN CLARK: I am sorry, your name again?

22          MR. JOHNSON: I am john Dunnuck with Broward  
23          College. You called my name earlier but I had a  
24          technical issue.

25          CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Mr. Dunnuck, John

1           Dunnuck, all right, you are recognized, sir.

2           MR. DUNNUCK: Yes. Thank you.

3           Good afternoon. My name is John Dunnuck. I  
4           am the Senior Vice-President of Broward College in  
5           Broward County, Florida.

6           We service about 60,000 students and our  
7           relationship with FPL has been nothing but a great  
8           partnership. They help us with -- with energy  
9           savings doing energy audits where we can -- we go  
10          in and look at our chiller plant operations and  
11          make sure we are using off peak hours to operate  
12          those.

13          Additionally, we are part of the Florida, you  
14          know, the SolarTogether program, you know, where  
15          our normal spend is about \$4 million a year with  
16          energy, and so obviously, any kind of energy  
17          savings we are all for, but they have been a great  
18          partnership. But more importantly it's been the  
19          customer service.

20          When we have a hurricane, or a challenge, FPL  
21          has been on top of it to help support us through  
22          thick and thin. You know, we recognize that a lot  
23          of our students, our 60,000 students that we have,  
24          the safest place they are going to be in any given  
25          day is actually on our campus. And so it's so

1 important that we get up and running when have  
2 service disruptions for them to have a place to go,  
3 and FPL has been tremendous in terms of their  
4 ability to support us and be responsive, and so  
5 while -- (inaudible) -- seek a rate increase one  
6 way or another, I will say from a customer service  
7 standpoint that we have enjoyed a great  
8 relationship with FPL.

9 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you for your testimony,  
10 Mr. Dunnuck.

11 Anyone have any questions?

12 All right. Next speaker is Stephen Averhart.

13 MR. AVERHART: I am here.

14 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. You are  
15 recognized, Mr. Averhart.

16 MR. AVERHART: Yes, sir. I just want to thank  
17 the Commission for the time and effort on this  
18 decision. I want to recognize all those on both  
19 sides of the points being made -- (inaudible) --  
20 but I do want to say as an FPL customer for the  
21 last 25 years, I have been very pleased with the  
22 service and value that they have provided me,  
23 especially compared to other electric companies  
24 that I have been a customer of, and also when you  
25 compare it to the other services in general that a

1 lot of us receive, cable and internet services, I  
2 certainly appreciate this process that we go  
3 through to try to come up with a -- (inaudible) --

4 So I am in support of FPL, and I appreciate  
5 your time and efforts, Commissioners, for making  
6 the decision for everybody. Thank you very much.

7 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Averhart.  
8 Anyone have any questions?

9 Next speaker Walker Crego. If Mr. Crego is on  
10 the line, he will need to be sworn in. Are you  
11 available, Mr. Crego?

12 Next is Michael Hawkins. Michael Hawkins.  
13 Tim Daubert.

14 MR. DAUBERT: I'm here, Mr. Chairman.

15 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Mr. Daubert, you  
16 are recognized.

17 MR. DAUBERT: Thank you very much.

18 Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and Commissioners.  
19 My name is Tim Daubert. I live in Miami Lakes, and  
20 I would like to talk about the great work that FPL  
21 does in our community, probably something I haven't  
22 heard in all the speakers that I have heard so far  
23 today.

24 FPL does so much work in our community with  
25 our veterans. Being a United States Marine Corps

1 Veteran myself, FPL employs about 2,000 veterans  
2 and provides support for them through their  
3 employee resource group.

4 Recently, a fellow veteran called me and said  
5 that there was a American flag that was on a pole  
6 that had been caught in some power lines down  
7 south, and asked me what we could do to take it  
8 down and get it replaced. I immediately called the  
9 external affairs people that I know, and within two  
10 hours they had a team out there at that pole to  
11 take it down and replace it. Then they brought  
12 that flag to me today where I can -- I am sorry --  
13 where I could retire it respectfully.

14 I want to thank FPL External Affairs for all  
15 the hard work they do and FPL for the great power  
16 and service they provide.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Commissioners, for  
18 allowing me the opportunity to speak today. Have a  
19 great day.

20 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Thank you.

21 Any questions for Mr. Daubert?

22 Next up is Mr. Doug Capuder.

23 Moving on is Luis Javier Dominguez.

24 MR. DOMINGUEZ: Hi, this is Luis Javier  
25 Dominguez. I am here. Can you hear me?

1                   COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: We can hear you, Mr.  
2                   Dominguez. I need to swear you in.

3                   MR. DOMINGUEZ: Okay.

4                   (Whereupon, Luis Javier Dominguez was sworn by  
5                   Commissioner La Rosa.)

6                   MR. DOMINGUEZ: I do?

7                   COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Thank you. You are  
8                   recognized.

9                   MR. DOMINGUEZ: My name is Luis Javier  
10                  Dominguez with Florida East Coast Industries. I  
11                  have been a developer in South Florida market for  
12                  over 25 years. My experience with FPL has been  
13                  incredibly professional and fast-acting company to  
14                  work with and assist us in moving forward any  
15                  projects that we have done.

16                 They are very good at training and providing  
17                 jobs for new graduates within the Florida market as  
18                 well. I have had the pleasure to work with  
19                 Sabastian -- (INAUDIBLE) -- as a service  
20                 representative for FPL for the last three years,  
21                 and they take it very percentage to provide that  
22                 kind of service, which is unknown today in the  
23                 market of development.

24                 I don't have an opinion on their rate  
25                 increase. That's up to accountants and the

1 Commission to do the analysis as to whether it's  
2 justified or not. I do know that there is a lot of  
3 different projects that FPL is involved with solar,  
4 and if we do want a change and we want to support  
5 the environment, it's going to take -- it's going  
6 to take money. It's not going to happen  
7 automatically.

8 So my opinion on FPL is that it's a topnotch  
9 company, very professional, and I have had the  
10 greatest experience with them.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you for your testimony,  
13 Mr. Dominguez.

14 Anyone have any questions?

15 Next up, Rebecca Miller.

16 MS. MILLER: I'm here.

17 CHAIRMAN CLARK: You are recognized, Ms.  
18 Miller.

19 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

20 Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and  
21 Commissioners. My name is Rebecca Miller, and I am  
22 the President of Founder of MPLD Consulting. We  
23 have offices in West Palm Beach, Fort Pierce,  
24 Naples and Port St. Lucie.

25 I am happy to say that we currently represent

1 a billion and a half dollars worth of residential  
2 and commercial real estate projects over 16  
3 counties in the state of Florida. We also work in  
4 the state of New York and New Jersey. We act as  
5 both developers and owner representatives for all  
6 projects, and are happy to report that are in our  
7 18th year of business, with over 600 large and  
8 small scale projects under our belt.

9 I am also a resident of West Palm Beach and an  
10 FPL customer. I work with FPL on a regular weekly  
11 and often daily, sometimes to their annoyance,  
12 basis over multiple municipalities and counties  
13 with our primary market being South Florida.

14 When I am my most stressed in getting my  
15 projects powered up, the FPL team are incredibly  
16 responsive partners, from the top of the customer  
17 service divisions and engineering services to the  
18 field workers, who get me my transformers and my  
19 permanent power. We are very much in favor of  
20 pursuing green technologies through our power  
21 provider, where they are currently taking -- where  
22 they are currently stakeholders in our local  
23 efforts at renewable energy with large solar farms  
24 and other alternative energies.

25 FPL is also an enormous employer in our local

1 environment, and contribute greatly to our  
2 community nonprofits with both employee time and  
3 corporate funding.

4 All said, I support rate increases that  
5 provide additional staff and infrastructure that  
6 keeps up with our lightning growth rate currently  
7 here in the state. Our numbers are unprecedented  
8 at any other time in our state's history. FPL's  
9 rates continue to be the lowest of anywhere else I  
10 develop and work in, which is worth mentioning.

11 On another note, I am also originally from  
12 Canada, where our utility rates are considerably  
13 higher than any FPL rates anywhere I think.

14 I support FPL in their goals to strengthen  
15 their grid, green technologies and impacts to our  
16 Florida community.

17 Thank you for your time and efforts on our  
18 behalf, Commission, and I appreciate your time  
19 today.

20 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much, Ms.  
21 Miller.

22 Does anyone have any questions?

23 Next up, Jeremy Johnson.

24 MR. JOHNSON: Hi, good afternoon, Mr.  
25 Chairman.

1           CHAIRMAN CLARK: You are recognized.

2           MR. JOHNSON: This is Jeremy Johnson.

3           Clearly, a lot of ground has been covered so  
4 far this afternoon, both the positive and negative.  
5 I am on the call today to express my support for  
6 FPL's rate increase.

7           I echo a lot of the sentiments that have  
8 already been articulated, but I would also like to  
9 add that as both a residential customer and  
10 commercial customer, I have experienced outstanding  
11 levels of service from Florida Power & Light, and I  
12 would also like to add, as many others have, that  
13 their involvement in their local communities, and  
14 support of activities that are beneficial to broad  
15 and wide ranging communities is also very important  
16 as a corporate partner.

17           I think they are an outstanding corporate  
18 citizen, and I think they do a fantastic job  
19 delivering safe, cost-effective energy, reliable  
20 energy, and I applaud their efforts to continue  
21 research and development for alternative and green  
22 methods of energy production.

23           Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24           CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much, Mr.  
25 Johnson.

1           Anyone have any questions?

2           Next up, Giancarlo Cuniberti. Giancarlo  
3           Cuniberti.

4           Next, Timothy Zorc. Timothy Zorc.

5           MR. ZORC: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6           Good afternoon, Chairman Clark and  
7           Commissioners. My name is Tim Zorc, a lifelong  
8           Florida resident, a former eight-year Indian River  
9           County Commissioner, and 40 plus year customer of  
10          Florida Power & Light. I will be speaking in favor  
11          of the FPL rate increase.

12          No one looks forward to higher costs for  
13          anything, but you need to look behind the numbers  
14          to understand them. During my eight years on the  
15          County Commission, I appeared several times before  
16          the PSC relating to the sale of Vero Beach Electric  
17          to Florida Power & Light. The sale was a very  
18          important issue to the community because more Vero  
19          Beach Electric customers lived outside the city  
20          limits than inside the city limits. The rate  
21          difference was measured in significant double digit  
22          rate difference, and many realtors felt compelled  
23          to disclose to a potential buyer that they were  
24          looking at a property that was located in the City  
25          of Vero Beach Electric power area.

1           It has been estimated by a local watch  
2           customer that since December 2018, the sale of Vero  
3           Beach Electric to Florida Power & Light, the local  
4           ratepayers have now saved over \$70 million from  
5           lower rates.

6           Lower rates are only part of what residents  
7           and businesses are concerned with. The reliability  
8           of the system both day-to-day as well as storm  
9           events are very important.

10          True story: Shortly before the sale of Vero  
11          Beach Electric to FPL was to close, one of the  
12          county's largest employers asked the day shift to  
13          stay for overtime due to a backlog of business.  
14          Right at that time, a power outage hit the  
15          facility. The CEO is now faced with likely  
16          hundreds of employees waiting to see if the power  
17          will come back on, or will it be an extended power  
18          outage. A tough decision for anyone to have to  
19          make.

20          Here in Indian River County, FPL has invested  
21          tens of millions of dollars upgrading the local  
22          grid, from installing new concrete poles, removing  
23          extensive vegetation and adding underground service  
24          in existing communities.

25          For example, the City of Sebastian have

1 started a large overhead to underground conversion  
2 that will add more reliability and reduced outages  
3 during a storm event.

4 In looking at the future, Florida Power &  
5 Light is consistently exploring new ways to  
6 delivery clean, reliable and low-cost power to its  
7 customers.

8 Again here in Indian River County, FPL has  
9 recently installed, one of the first in the  
10 country, a new non-combustible cutting edge natural  
11 gas linear generator that is the primary source of  
12 power for a manufacturing facility located here in  
13 Vero Beach.

14 Florida Power & Light has also invested  
15 heavily. A few years ago had no solar farms in our  
16 community, but today we have millions of solar  
17 panels, and multiple projects completed and  
18 proposed here in our local county.

19 In closing, it's my opinion that FPL has --  
20 (inaudible) -- to continue the goal of lower --  
21 (inaudible) -- reliable electric power to its  
22 customers. Their investments in solar generators  
23 and other emerging technology, as well as current  
24 investments in storm hardening will help them  
25 achieve those goals, and I thank you for your time

1 today.

2 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much for your  
3 testimony, Mr. Zorc.

4 Anyone have any questions?

5 Next up Lorrisann Cole.

6 MS. COLE: Yes. Good afternoon.

7 CHAIRMAN CLARK: You are recognized, Ms. Cole.

8 MS. COLE: Yes. I am a loyal FPL residential  
9 customer for almost 20 years, during which time I  
10 have been living in North Lauderdale.

11 Unfortunately, we -- (inaudible) -- my house the  
12 end of 2019, and then shortly after the pandemic  
13 came. And because of the pandemic, everything has  
14 been -- was delayed with the renovation and repairs  
15 in my house. The one less headache I had was FPL,  
16 because every time I had to reach out to them for  
17 any advice, or to get the power disconnected, or  
18 when it was time to get it connected, everything  
19 was done promptly. Customer service was great.  
20 The management responded quickly, so I want to  
21 acknowledge them for their outstanding job.

22 I have no opinion on the rate increase. If it  
23 needs to be done, then, hey, go ahead and do what  
24 you have to do, but thank you for everything that  
25 you have done.

1 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much, Ms.  
2 Cole.

3 Anyone have any questions?

4 All right. Next speaker is Marcia Breen, Ms.  
5 Breen, you are going to need to be sworn in. Are  
6 you on the line? Marcia Breen.

7 Next, Laura Nelson. Laura Nelson.

8 MR. JIMENEZ: Mr. Chairman, I apologize. I  
9 had to -- I had to hang up for a minute and dial  
10 back in. I don't know if my name was called  
11 previously. My name is Joe Jimenez in Miami.

12 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, Mr. Jimenez, hang on one  
13 second and we will come back to you.

14 MR. JIMENEZ: Thank you, sir.

15 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Laura Nelson.

16 Alina Rocas, R-O-C-E-S, Rocas.

17 MS. ROCES: Hello.

18 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes. Alina?

19 MS. ROCES: Yes. Hold on, I am trying to get  
20 it off speaker.

21 Okay. Can you hear me okay?

22 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Yes, we can hear you now. Is  
23 this Alina?

24 MS. ROCES: Yes, this is Alina.

25 CHAIRMAN CLARK: You are recognized.

1 MS. ROCES: Hello, my name is Alina Rocés,  
2 okay.

3 My name is Alina Rocés, and up until April, I  
4 was a resident in Plantation, Florida. I am  
5 currently staying at a friend's house in Sunrise,  
6 Florida, and will be back in Plantation in August,  
7 once my new residence is available.

8 I have been an FPL customer for more than 30  
9 years, and have been very pleased with the service  
10 I have received. In fact, I think it was several  
11 years back, FPL actually decreased our rates over  
12 the course of a few years, and I don't think this  
13 is something that they needed to do.

14 I have also used the budget billing option,  
15 which I think is great, and keeps my average  
16 monthly bill relatively consistent throughout the  
17 year.

18 Recently, I experienced a power outage and was  
19 able to use their on-line tools to quickly find out  
20 when the power would be restored, and they did it  
21 relatively close to the estimated time. So  
22 therefore, I knew roughly when the power would be  
23 back on, and that was something great for me to  
24 know.

25 Lastly, I was an engineer manager at Motorola

1 Solutions for 33 years, and we developed two-way  
2 portable and mobile radios for the police and fire  
3 department. We had to periodically design new  
4 platforms for two reasons. One, we could no longer  
5 support the old platform due to obsolete parts, and  
6 two, the technology was evolving quickly and this  
7 allowed us to improve -- make improvements to our  
8 design and provide new features to our customers.  
9 Therefore, I totally understand the need to update  
10 infrastructure and to continue to improve the core  
11 design as technology improves and changes occur.

12 I am in favor of the rate increase in order  
13 for FPL to continue to provide excellent service.  
14 I thank you for your time.

15 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you very much, Ms.  
16 Roces.

17 Any questions?

18 Next speaker, Clarence Williams. Clarence  
19 Williams.

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, and good afternoon,  
21 Commissioners.

22 CHAIRMAN CLARK: You are recognized, sir.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Clarence Williams --  
24 I am sorry?

25 CHAIRMAN CLARK: I said you are recognized.

1           MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you so very much,  
2           Commissioners.

3           My name is Clarence Williams. I am a resident  
4           of West Palm Beach, Florida, Palm Beach County. I  
5           am a retired law enforcement chief executive and  
6           lawyer. Thank you for the opportunity to address  
7           you on this matter this afternoon.

8           By now, no doubt you have heard that FPL is  
9           the largest energy company in Florida; that FPL is  
10          committed to delivering America's best energy  
11          value; that FPL is making Florida a clean energy  
12          and sustainability leader in the industry; that FPL  
13          was building the strongest energy grid in America  
14          for our state; the FPL is building the smartest  
15          energy grid in the U.S.

16          You know, as a customer I may not understand  
17          it what all that means, but as a senior citizen, I  
18          understand when my lights flicker, I experience  
19          rapid customer attention; that when my lights  
20          flicker, I have a corporate partner that supports  
21          causes that advance humidity within our state; that  
22          FPL offers real cost saving services to all its  
23          customers.

24          If a carefully calculated rate increase will  
25          enhance and further FPL's current service delivery

1 models, I view it as necessary.

2 Commissioners, thank you so very much for  
3 allowing me this opportunity to address you.

4 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Williams.  
5 Anyone have any questions?

6 And Mr. Jose Jimenez.

7 MR. JIMENEZ: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you  
8 very much, and I apologize for not being here when  
9 originally called.

10 CHAIRMAN CLARK: No problem.

11 MR. JIMENEZ: I am speaking on behalf of  
12 Celina Partners, and we are a commercial  
13 customer --

14 CHAIRMAN CLARK: Mr. Jimenez, one second, my  
15 apologies to you. I flipped back over. You have  
16 not been sworn in yet.

17 (Whereupon, Jose Jimenez was sworn by Chairman  
18 Clark.)

19 MR. JIMENEZ: I do.

20 CHAIRMAN CLARK: All right. Now you are  
21 recognized. Go ahead, sir.

22 MR. JIMENEZ: Thank you. Again, Jose Jimenez  
23 from Miami, Florida, speaking on behalf of Celina  
24 Partners a commercial customer of Florida Power &  
25 Light.

1           As a commercial real estate developer, we have  
2           a relationship with FPL that is -- that is  
3           absolutely necessary for us to do our jobs. And I  
4           can tell you that of all the governmental entities  
5           that we deal with, which I will equate with what  
6           Florida Power & Light, it does down here, they are  
7           far in a way the best once to deal with. Their  
8           engineering staff, which has to literally design  
9           systems for us to install, works diligently, works  
10          intelligently, works cooperatively with us at every  
11          stage, whether it's designing the overall grid  
12          system, or coming and installing a meter, you can  
13          always count on FPL to provide excellent customer  
14          service, excellent responsiveness. They are  
15          accessible. They are -- and they are just  
16          absolutely professional.

17                 On behalf of myself personally, I am also a  
18          residential customer, and the day before I was  
19          moving into a new home, it turns out that the  
20          entire line feeding the house went, and I lost all  
21          power to the house, but within a day they were  
22          there, they bored under my driveway, they brought a  
23          new line from -- (inaudible) -- they had it up and  
24          running in less than 24 hours, three separate  
25          trucks diagnosing and solving the problem.

1           So I am not only happy to speak here on behalf  
2           of FPL's commercial -- commercial abilities with  
3           us, but also the residential.

4           I have no opinion on the rate increase, but if  
5           it allows them to provide the level of service that  
6           they had been providing, then I am completely in  
7           agreement with, and I thank you for your time.

8           CHAIRMAN CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Jimenez.

9           Are there any individuals on the line who are  
10          registered and signed up to speak that I overlooked  
11          or did not get an opportunity?

12          All right. Well, thank you very much for  
13          taking time out of your schedules to be here with  
14          us today and for calling into this hearing. Your  
15          comments, again, are very important to the process  
16          and we appreciate you assisting us in this  
17          proceeding.

18          If you have any questions, please feel free to  
19          call in and discuss them with one of our staff  
20          members or with a company representative. Their  
21          contact information has been provided in the  
22          notices for this proceeding.

23          Any Commissioners have any questions or  
24          comments before we adjourn?

25          Seeing none, we stand adjourned until six

1           o'clock p.m. Thank you for being here.

2                   (Proceedings concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF LEON )

I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the time and place herein stated.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the same has been transcribed under my direct supervision; and that this transcript constitutes a true transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED this 19th day of July, 2021.



\_\_\_\_\_  
DEBRA R. KRICK  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
COMMISSION #HH31926  
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2024