

Lisa Smith

From: Office of Commissioner La Rosa
Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2021 4:09 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: FW: We Can't Afford Higher Rates

Good afternoon,

Please place the email below in CORRESPONDENCE-Consumers & Representatives in docket 20210015.

Thank you!

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

From: sally.b.philips@everyactioncustom.com <sally.b.philips@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2021 12:59 PM
To: Office of Commissioner La Rosa <Commissioner.LaRosa@psc.state.fl.us>
Subject: We Can't Afford Higher Rates

Dear Mike LaRosa,

I am writing as a concerned Florida resident and customer of Florida Power & Light (FPL). I received notification that FPL intends to increase rates for their customers across the state, hurting the most vulnerable in our communities the most. We urge you to rethink this decision and not increase our bills.

FP&L raised its fuel charge 18% in May, 2021. While it proclaims it is producing more electricity by solar panels, why didn't the fuel charge go down? What is FP&L doing about climate change? Burning more fuel and cutting more trees that absorb CO2. Oh, yes, they are using 25% more paper since February 2021.

Since the company is making a VERY good profit some 10+% on their investment, I can think of no good reason to approve an increase in the rates they charge their captive customers.

I generate my own electricity and send excess to the grid. I am not allowed to be disconnected from the grid. FP&L only pays me \$ 0.015 per kWh for the electricity my solar panels generate, while charging \$0.226 per kWh. This year I essentially gifted them about \$63.00 and did it without fouling the environment or destroying trees.

This past year has been challenging and unrelenting, and folks have spent it worrying; worrying about the health and safety of their families and friends; worrying about finding work or being safe at work; worrying about the future of the business they built from the ground up; and worrying about making sure that they could keep the lights and heat on at home. For many of us, the pandemic has changed all of our lives in ways we'll still likely be grappling with long after the pandemic comes to an end.

Nevertheless, for some reason, corporate greed seems to be more important than the sustainability of our communities and our livelihood. This was evident when FPL, among several other power companies resumed closing customer accounts due to non-payment during the second wave of the pandemic. Now, they want to increase rates for their most vulnerable customers. We can't allow companies to continue taking advantage of working-class families, and luckily, you have the power NOW to stop this.

Our families need relief, real solutions to the climate crisis and fair and affordable utility rates. By raising prices, FPL is treating energy as a commodity when it's a necessity. We are demanding that Florida Power & Light halt this unfair plan and that Florida's Public Service Commission require FPL to maintain fair rates for their consumers, and prioritize the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sally B. Philips

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