

Shawna Senko

From: Shawna Senko
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2014 8:08 AM
To: 'Rehwinkel.Michelle'
Subject: RE: Comments on Florida's Numeric Conservation Goals, Docket # 130199 – 130205

Your questions and comments are very important to us. We will be placing your comments below in Consumer Correspondence for Docket Nos. 130199-130205. Please contact our office at 850-413-6770 or the Office of General Counsel at 850-413-6199 if you have any questions.

Have a great day,

Shawna Senko
Florida Public Service Commission
Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850
850-413-6770

From: Rehwinkel.Michelle [mailto:Michelle.Rehwinkel@myfloridahouse.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2014 4:22 PM
To: Records Clerk
Cc: Filings@psc.state.fl.us
Subject: Re: Comments on Florida's Numeric Conservation Goals, Docket # 130199 – 130205

Re: Comments on Florida's Numeric Conservation Goals, Docket # 130199 – 130205

Commissioners:

The Florida Legislature established the process for setting conservation goals for electric energy and natural gas usage through the enactment of the Florida Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act (FEECA) Section 366.80-85, Florida Statutes. The statute states that "it is critical to utilize the most efficient and cost-effective energy conservation systems in order to protect the health, prosperity and general welfare of the state and its citizens." The statute also authorizes the Public Service Commission to "require each utility to develop plans and implement programs for increasing energy efficiency and conservation..."

With the passage of HB 7147 during this year's legislative session, the Solar Energy System Incentives Program and the Florida Energy Star Residential HVAC Rebate Program were terminated. The repeal of these two programs represents a significant backwards step of our state's policy for development of alternative energy sources which promote conservation and efficiency. Florida Statute 366.801 states "the Legislature intends that the use of solar energy, renewable energy sources, highly efficient systems, cogeneration, and load-control systems be encouraged."

Encouragement of solar and renewable energy sources is severely lacking in Florida. There are many ways to address this lack, including some more traditional and some more creative, but the fact of the matter is that Florida is doing precious little. It is disheartening that the "Sunshine State" only generates 2.2% of its energy from renewable sources. While 83% of Florida's energy is generate from natural gas and coal, neither of these are "Florida Brand" energy sources. Meanwhile, other states being serviced by some of the same utilities and which have less potential for renewable energy have been more

active in enacting policies which have resulted in more efficient, secure and cost-effective energy systems. This is the proverbial Cinderella story; Florida has the most potential but is not being invited to the ball.

Duke Energy is investing more in improving energy efficiency in states like Ohio and North Carolina, than in Florida. Floridians are being denied the opportunity to save money, support jobs and the environment while Duke customers in other states are seeing those benefits. This year, utility companies like Duke, TECO and FP&L didn't propose any renewable energy goals. In two years, Georgia will have almost double the solar that Florida plans to have nearly a decade from now. These missed opportunities will have a long-term negative impact on Florida's economy and will give a competitive advantage to other states, costing Florida jobs.

Increasing energy savings is a business opportunity. Investing in energy savings boosts local industries, especially manufacturing. The savings flow back into the local economy, creating and supporting jobs here at home year after year. If Florida utility companies achieved annual energy efficiency savings in line with the industry standard (1% of the previous year's retail sales), over 900 jobs would be created in the state in the first year alone and consumers would save millions of dollars each year on their electric bills.

Absent new goals, statewide Florida utilities are expected to save 0.3 percent per year from 2014 - 2022. High performing states are saving around 2% per year, so Florida's energy savings performance is lagging and stronger goals would help spur better performance. Today, the utilities use a variety of residential and commercial/industrial programs, as well as solar pilot programs, to reach their energy savings goals. The PSC must require Duke Energy and other utilities to make the same investment in energy efficiency and conservation in Florida as they do in other states, saving us money, creating jobs and improving our environment. Duke Energy, Florida Power & Light and TECO need to increase their energy savings goals and expand their solar power programs. Florida's economy will get a big boost if Duke Energy, FP&L, TECO and Gulf Power strengthen their energy savings and solar power programs.

We cannot take seriously enough the very critical concerns that include state and national security, human health and environmental health issues as well as reliability. Energy and how we produce and consume it has crossed the Rubicon into a new era entirely. Florida must not lag other states and nations. If we do, it is to our great detriment and economic risk. Florida must to examine critical vulnerabilities in our energy distribution and generation infrastructure because now is the opportunity to strengthen and harden the grid, which will improve conservation and efficiency.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle

Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda
State Representative
House District 9

We are like tenant farmers chopping down the fence around our house for fuel when we should be using Nature's inexhaustible sources of energy -- sun, wind and tide. ... I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that. -Thomas Edison, inventor (1847-1931)