

Brian Schultz

From: Brian Schultz on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Friday, August 09, 2019 10:50 AM
To: 'fccastaff@ms2ch.org'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: Public Comment, FL Clinicians for Climate Action, for Docket Numbers 20190015, 20190016, 20190017, 20190018, 20190019, 20190020, and 20190021 (Commission review of numeric conservation goals)
Attachments: FL Clinicians Letter to PSC re Efficiency Goals.pdf

Good Morning, Melissa Baldwin

We will be placing your comments in consumer correspondence in Docket Nos. 20190015-20190021 and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Sincerely,

Brian Schultz

Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
Brian.Schultz@psc.state.fl.us
850.413.6770

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

From: FCCA Staff [<mailto:fccastaff@ms2ch.org>]
Sent: Friday, August 09, 2019 10:10 AM
To: Records Clerk
Subject: Public Comment, FL Clinicians for Climate Action, for Docket Numbers 20190015, 20190016, 20190017, 20190018, 20190019, 20190020, and 20190021 (Commission review of numeric conservation goals)

Hello,

My name is Melissa Baldwin and I am the program manager for Florida Clinicians for Climate Action (FCCA).

On behalf of FCCA, I would like to submit this comment with reference to the Commission review of numeric conservation goals, for Docket Numbers 20190015, 20190016, 20190017, 20190018, 20190019, 20190020.

This letter reflects the views of Florida doctors, including the Executive Committee of Florida Clinicians for Climate Action, as well as several other health professionals.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

The letter is attached.

Thank you,
Melissa Baldwin
Program Manager
Florida Clinicians for Climate Action
Office: (813) 672-1368
Cell: (727) 743-3778

August 9, 2019

Mr. Adam J. Teitzman
Commission Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 413-6770

Re: Docket Numbers 20190015-EG, 20190016-EG, 20190017-EG, 20190018-EG, 20190019-EG, 20190020-EG, and 20190021-EG

Dear Mr. Teitzman,

Energy Efficiency reduces pollution, improves human health, and lowers energy burdens. The Florida Energy Efficiency Conservation Act (FEECA) is an opportunity to set strong energy savings targets for Florida utilities and deliver these benefits to all Floridians. We urge the Florida Public Service Commission to set energy savings targets for utilities that ramp up to at least 1% per year.¹

Reducing energy demand in buildings avoids the need to generate electricity and to build additional power plants, thereby reducing greenhouse gases and other pollutants emitted through the combustion of fossil fuels. The air pollution caused by burning fossil fuels damages major organ systems in the human body, contributing to the leading causes of death in the US: cancer, chronic lung disease, heart disease, and stroke. Deploying energy efficiency can help to mitigate these health harms.² Energy efficiency in buildings can also help to alleviate respiratory ailments and asthma triggers by improving indoor air quality for building occupants.³

Floridians could realize significant health benefits from ramping up utility energy efficiency programs. If utility energy savings targets increased to 1% of retail electricity sales, pollution avoided from utility energy efficiency programs could generate over \$12 million in annual health benefits to Floridians, preventing hospital admissions due to respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses and avoiding restricted activity and costly lost work days. Investing in utility energy efficiency programs as part of a broader energy efficiency strategy could generate even bigger health benefits. Based on the total dollar value of health harms avoided from reducing energy consumption 15% in a single year, Florida would see some of the greatest health benefits. In fact, these benefits place it among the top seven states nationwide. Tampa, Miami, Orlando, Jacksonville are ranked among the top 35 cities that would see the greatest health benefits from energy efficiency.⁴ These benefits offer a powerful argument for moving forward on energy efficiency.

Energy efficiency is also a key tool for reducing energy burdens, the portion of a household income spent on utility bills that is often higher for low-income and rural residents. The national average is 3.5%, yet half of the low-income households in Jacksonville, Tampa, Orlando, and Miami have an energy burden greater than 7.2%, with a quarter of residents as high as 12%. Energy efficiency can eliminate over one third of this

¹ In 2017 thirteen states saved at least 1% of retail electricity sales through energy efficiency programs. Source: American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), *The 2018 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard*: [aceee.org/research-report/u1808](https://www.aceee.org/research-report/u1808).

² ACEEE, *Energy Efficiency and Health* (2015): [aceee.org/fact-sheet/ee-and-health](https://www.aceee.org/fact-sheet/ee-and-health).

³ ACEEE, *The Next Nexus: Exemplary Programs that Save Energy and Improve Health*: [aceee.org/research-report/h1802](https://www.aceee.org/research-report/h1802).

⁴ ACEEE, *Saving Energy, Saving Lives: The Health Impacts of Avoiding Power Plant Pollution with Energy Efficiency*: [aceee.org/research-report/h1801](https://www.aceee.org/research-report/h1801).

burden, and strong utility energy savings targets can even guide these investments to those who need them most.⁵

Florida utilities' historic energy efficiency spending and savings fall well below that of fellow Southeast utilities, yet they have proposed even lower targets for the 2020-2029 period.⁶ Florida can look to tried and true energy efficiency models in neighboring states such as Arkansas and North Carolina, where utilities regularly meet electricity savings targets set by state regulators. FEECA is an opportunity for utilities and regulators to deliver meaningful environmental, health, and economic benefits to Floridians. We urge the Florida Public Service Commission to increase energy savings targets for FEECA utilities.

Sincerely,

The Executive Committee of Florida Clinicians for Climate Action (FCCA)

Cheryl Holder, MD, FACP, Co-Chair, FCCA
Ankush Bansal, MD, FACP, Co-Chair, FCCA
Todd Sack, MD, FACP, Advisor-at-Large, FCCA
Mark Mitchell, MD, MPH, FACPM, Senior Policy Advisor, FCCA
Mona Sarfaty, MD, MPH, FAAFP, Senior Policy Advisor, FCCA

Additional Florida health professionals in support of this letter:

Ron Saff, MD
Rogers Cain, MD
Mary Gutierrez, Environmental Scientist
Lee Seifer, MD student
Gabriella Wuyke, PhD student
Stewart Davidson, MD student
Claudia Trilles, MD student
Michele Lozano, Neighborhood Health Program Specialist
Krissie Lobon, MD
Pierre Edouard, MD, PA
Lanetta Bronte-Hall, MD, MPH, MSPH
Michelle Kirwan, MD
Anthony Hall, MD
Stephanie Talton-Williamson, MD
Xunda Gibson, MD
Oyinkansola Ogunrinde, Healthcare Management Consultant
Stacy Shihadeh, RN
Alice Akunyili, MD
Fatimat Shotande, MD student
Tereese Allen, MD
Deborah Holmes, MD

⁵ ACEEE, *How energy efficiency can help low-income households in Florida*: aceee.org/sites/default/files/pdf/fact-sheet/ses-florida-100917.pdf

⁶ ACEEE, *Utility-Sector Energy Efficiency Performance in Florida*: aceee.org/fact-sheet/florida-utility-performance.