

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 1:10 PM
To: 'rhymjohn@gmail.com'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: FW: Docket Nos. 20200053, 20200054, 20200055, and 20200056

Good Afternoon, Ms. Rhymes-Johnson.

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket Nos. 20200053, 20200054, 20200055, and 20200056, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Thank you!

Toni Hover

*Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
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Phone: (850) 413-6467*

From: Phyllis RhymesJohnson <rhymjohn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 6:07 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Docket Nos. 20200053, 20200054, 20200055, and 20200056

Strong Efficiency Goals Improve Our Health

Dear Commissioners:

You have an important decision on July 7th regarding efficiency programs for low-income customers.

Energy Efficiency reduces pollution, improves human health, and lowers energy burdens. 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.

It is unconscionable that PSC staff is recommending scaling back proposed programs. **I strongly oppose this shortsighted recommendation.** Instead, I urge you to direct the utilities to expand programs to meet the needs of the many hard-working Florida families, especially low-income customers.

The staff's recommendation would block proposed programs that are proven to deliver real savings to customers and are, in fact, readily available all across the country. Even further off the mark, the recommendation that low-income programs be scaled back is particularly cruel. With Covid-19 and the economic downturn, helping customers slash unaffordable energy bills is more important than ever. Now is not the time to abandon our families.

The links between energy efficiency measures and public health are already well recognized by states throughout the country. As of 2018, 19 states already account for health benefits in their utility cost effectiveness testing.

Florida does not currently include health benefits in utility cost effectiveness testing. A modest ramp-up of 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 missed days of work.

In fact, efficiency investments in Florida would deliver some of the most significant health benefits of anywhere in the country. An ACEEE analysis placed it among the top seven states nationwide for potential health benefits from efficiency programs. Tampa, Miami, Orlando, Jacksonville are ranked among the top 35 cities that would see the greatest health benefits from energy efficiency.

Therefore, I ask that you **REJECT** your staff's recommendation and ensure that each utility is putting forth robust efficiency programs – especially for its most vulnerable customers.

Sincerely,

Dr. P. Rhymes-Johnson, APRN