

Jacob Veughn

From: Jacob Veughn on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 1:21 PM
To: 'maryesmart@gmail.com'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Good afternoon, Mary Smart

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20200000 and forwarding your comments to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Jacob Veughn
Commission Deputy Clerk I
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
Jacob.Veughn@psc.state.fl.us
850.413.6656

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

From: maryesmart@everyactioncustom.com <maryesmart@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 12:42 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Dear Florida Public Service Commission,

Amid a public health and economic crisis, it's clear that Florida's electric utilities should be doing a whole lot more to promote rooftop solar - a known job creator that keeps money in families' pockets.

Before COVID-19, "solar installer" was the fastest growing job in the country, and the solar industry employed 250,000 people. The COVID-19 crisis could put half, 125,000, of these jobs at risk in communities across the United States. In the Sunshine state, before this crisis began, the solar industry employed over 12,000 Floridians. Now, over 1 million Floridians are unemployed, and Florida has already lost 22% of its workforce.

People and businesses across the state rely on common sense solar policies to take control of their own energy, save money, and choose how they power their lives.

Not only does solar create jobs and save us money, but when paired with batteries, solar panels can contribute to the resilience of the electric grid and provide back-up power in emergencies. As we face another intense hurricane season, Floridians need more tools – not fewer – in order to weather all the storms that are coming our way.

My husband and I attended a meeting about a solar cooperative in our county. The only reason I wasn't interested in joining is that I learned that, if we had solar panels, we could not use that power our panels generated and a storage battery to maintain electricity during an outage.

But I believe strongly in solar -- in getting off of nonrenewable forms of energy.

Thank you for defending solar workers, business owners, and residents by protecting our bedrock solar policies here in Florida.

Sincerely,

Mary Smart

1901 Linden Rd Winter Park, FL 32792-1814