

Jacob Veughn

From: Jacob Veughn on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2020 3:34 PM
To: 'cmsmerling@bellsouth.net'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Docket no. 20200219-EI, Stop Utility Disconnections Now. Protect FL Families During COVID!

Good afternoon, Carol Smerling

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20200219 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

From: Carol Smerling <Carol.Smerling.56022285@p2a.co>
Sent: Monday, October 5, 2020 1:13 PM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Docket no. 20200219-EI, Stop Utility Disconnections Now. Protect FL Families During COVID!

Dear Public Service Commission:

Hi, my name is Carol Smerling and I live in Boca Raton. As a Florida resident and ratepayer, I am extremely concerned about the prospect of utilities taking adverse action to leave Florida families without access to electricity during the pandemic.

Families are already struggling to cope with the effects of a pandemic which has cost more than 200,000 lives and infected millions. In Florida, almost 700,000 people have been infected and more than 13,500 lives have been lost to COVID since March.

COVID disconnections present an immediate danger as families struggle to protect the health and safety by staying home and abiding by the social distancing guidelines set by public health authorities. People without electricity in their homes will have no ability to stay cool, power medical devices, communicate with others, or stay warm during the winter. Electricity is an essential good; without it, people cannot stay in their homes and must seek shelter elsewhere, amounting to an eviction. More than 1 million people in Florida could be severely impacted by utility disconnections.

It's time for the Public Service Commission to exercise its authority to ensure that Florida families are protected from disconnections during the pandemic. The PSC must issue an emergency order preventing utility companies from taking adverse action against struggling Florida families. Disconnections will exacerbate an already severe public health crisis.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Regards,
Carol Smerling ■