

Antonia Hover

From: Veronica Washington
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 11:21 AM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: FW: Response to the January 5th Letter to the Public Service Commission
Attachments: Jan 10th Response to PSC.pdf

Please place on the undocketed side of Docket No. 20220000

Thanks

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January 10, 2022

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Dear Chairman Fay,

Thank you for your prompt response. While we understand that audits are a longstanding part of the rate case proceeding, the news reports since those audits were conducted have raised significant concerns over their comprehensiveness and results.

Indeed, new information has come to light since the rate case that indicates the ghost candidates scheme was set up by consultants hired by Florida Power & Light (FPL) in a way to intentionally hide the source of the money. Given the intentional secrecy of FPL's efforts, the normal Public Service Commission (PSC) rate case proceedings and analysis may not have provided adequate visibility to PSC staff. This new information must be taken into consideration by the PSC.

To be clear, even before the new information regarding the ongoing scandals came to light, concerns of political spending were raised in the process of the rate case, both in official testimony, such as the one provided by Karl Rabago focused on the millions of dollars in dues paid to certain politically active trade associations ([attached here](#)) as well as in comments from concerned ratepayers that were given in writing and at the virtual rate case hearings.

FPL response as well as the statements provided for the docket by the staff involved in the rate case audit, leave many questions and concerns for our constituents and Floridians at large. For example, in the Auditor's Report - Rate Case Exhibit IHP-1 , Page 4 of 12, staff states: "We judgmentally selected a sample of legal fees, other outside service expenses... and miscellaneous general expenses." In FPL's response to testimony questioning the utility's political activities, the company simply provided an EEI invoice as "proof" that customers are only being charged for the "applicable" amounts.

Both examples leave many questions, especially in light of the new information regarding FPL's political activity. It is hard to confirm FPL's claims without seeing the full picture. Are Floridians expected to simply believe that the standard rate case process results are comprehensive and fully accurate, especially given how much detail is left out of the public eye, the fact that documents state that the rate case audit only focused on "samples" of expenses, and in the wake of ongoing scandal and in-depth reporting raising significant doubts about FPL's honesty and credibility?

While we appreciate the audits that are done as part of the rate case proceeding, given the events that have taken place over the last year, it is in the best interest of Floridians to provide further transparency and answer outstanding questions about FPL's political spending. For example:

- In 2018, Florida Power & Light donated more than \$14 million to a 501(c)4 social welfare organization called "Mothers for Moderation." Where did this money originate from and how was the money used? Did Mothers for Moderation pass any of that money to other organizations at FPL's direction or with FPL's knowledge? If so, to whom and for what?
- In December 2019, FPL paid \$250,000 to "SUN Marketing & Advertising." Where did that money originate from? What was it spent on?
- In September 2020, FPL paid more than \$4 million to companies controlled by consultants working with Grow United, the nonprofit organization that funded the ghost candidate advertising. Those three companies were Matrix LLC, TMP Interactive and ENH Industries. Where did the money FPL paid them originate from? What did those consultants spend that money on?
- Has FPL ever given money to Grow United? If so, for what purpose? Where did that money originate from?
- The Miami Herald recently reported another nonprofit, Let's Preserve the American Dream, is an apparent target of the ghost candidate investigation. Has FPL ever given money to Let's Preserve the American Dream? If so, when and why? And where did that money originate from?
- Can the PSC provide a complete list of 501(c)4 social welfare organizations that FPL has provided funding to over the past five years?
- This past week, FPL launched a smear campaign on both the Miami Herald and their reporter Mary Ellen Klas. In an attempt to increase the exposure of this smear campaign, they even promoted a tweet linking to a webpage attacking the Miami Herald and Klas. Did ratepayers pay for this? If not, where did the money originate from?

We understand that right now, elements of the rate case are kept confidential -- If a detailed audit has been done that would satisfy these questions, please share those materials with us and answer these questions. If you cannot answer these questions, then we request the PSC conduct a more thorough audit and make documents available to the public.

The mission of the PSC is, "to facilitate the efficient provision of safe and reliable utility services at fair prices." Furthermore, one of the PSC's goals is to "expedite resolution of disputes between consumers and utilities." Right now our constituents and Floridians are demanding answers to the

questions above and we are hopeful that the PSC will uphold its mission and answer all of our questions.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



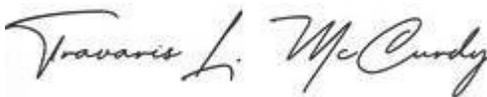
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