

Antonia Hover

From: Antonia Hover on behalf of Records Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 9:05 AM
To: 'Scott Lewis'
Cc: Consumer Contact
Subject: RE: Additional submission for FPL Rate Increase Case Docket #20250011

Good Morning, Scott Lewis.

We will be placing your comments below in consumer correspondence in Docket No. 20250011, and forwarding them to the Office of Consumer Assistance and Outreach.

Thank you!

Toni Hover

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From: Scott Lewis <scotlew@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 8:38 AM
To: Records Clerk <CLERK@PSC.STATE.FL.US>
Subject: Additional submission for FPL Rate Increase Case Docket #20250011

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Greetings, PSC Commissioners,

I recently testified at the FPL Hearing case at the Anne Kolb Nature Center in Broward County on May 29th. However, there was not sufficient time for me to present everything that I wanted to say, so as per the suggestion from Committee Chair La Rosa, I am including additional information below.

Before I add my additional points below, however, I have a comment regarding some of the testimony I heard from several customers who spoke at the hearing who were happy with FPL's service and seemed to be using that as a rationale for supporting the rate increase. Frankly, I fail to understand why satisfaction with service could serve as a reason to support allowing rate increases for FPL. While I also appreciate FPL's service and ability to provide service after storms, I don't see that as a sufficient reason to pay higher fees for such service.

I'll provide my prepared remarks below – please note that the text highlighted in yellow not presented because of time limitations:

Greetings, my name is Scott Lewis and I am from nearby Pembroke Pines. I am a member of Third Act Florida - **a community of Americans over sixty working together to safeguard our climate and democracy; and I am also the Director of the Florida Climate Educators Network.**

I want to begin by thanking our PSC commissioners for their service to help determine energy systems for Florida that will best serve our population. I also want to let you know that I have neighbors who work for FPL and I appreciate that the company provides us with a reliable source of electricity despite numerous storms.

I want to share two concerns with our PSC members today.

The first concern is about the possible economic hardship impacts of rate increases and the second concern is for the work we must do to rapidly transition to a clean energy future for all Floridians.

First, with respect to FPL's rate case, I worry that there are many Floridians and particularly seniors, who may have trouble paying utility bill increases and may face heat health dangers if they cannot afford power to keep cool.

About 13% of our population in Florida is below the poverty line. Since FPL serves about 12 million Floridians – this means that roughly 1.5 million people are at the poverty line in FPL's service area, including about 130,000 elderly Floridians.

Any rate increases will likely lead to members of this group making painful choices to pay their electric bills; and this is especially problematic with the current federal budget proposal which may eliminate funding that has helped many people pay such bills.

Thus, it is critical that you take into consideration the serious economic challenges that many Floridians face when responding to FPL's request.

Second, with respect to the importance of designing cleaner energy systems in this state.

Where we are meeting now at Anne Kolb Nature Center is only a short distance from the intracoastal waterway. You may not know that in the fall here we experience what are called "King Tides" when a regular alignment of the sun earth and moon amplifies the ebb and flow of our tides. These high tides often result in flooding just down the street at A1A. Because we are experiencing sea level rise, this flooding is becoming more frequent and worse. And ANY fossil fuel, including methane, that FPL and our other utilities burn to create our electricity contributes to sea level rise and more flooding, as well as increasing salt-water intrusion that threatens our drinking water supplies here in South Florida.

So to help us make a change to clean energy and away from fossil fuels, I hope that you encourage FPL to get out of the fossil fuel business as rapidly as possible, **and that you also find ways to encourage all Floridians to improve their home and business energy efficiency and to accelerate adoption of renewable energy, including use of solar. Such reductions in use and additional sources of clean energy can contribute to the clean energy growth we need in Florida!**

In closing I quote Ayana Johnson, a marine biologist who wrote the recent book, What if we get it right-

It is right to quickly transition to renewable energy. It is right to hold corporations accountable. It is right to ensure a just transition, leaving no one behind. And it is right to enact strong government policies that will accelerate all of this.

*On the other hand, **it is wrong to make this magnificent planet unlivable.** It is wrong for the corporations who got us into this mess to continue to profit while they set the world on fire. And it is wrong to leave the most vulnerable to bear the heaviest climate impacts.*

Thank you!

Scott Lewis

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