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BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:  
In re: DOCKET NO. 20250011-EI  
  
Petition for rate increase by  
Florida Power & Light Company.

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PROCEEDINGS: SERVICE HEARING

COMMISSIONERS  
PARTICIPATING: CHAIRMAN MIKE LA ROSA  
COMMISSIONER ART GRAHAM  
COMMISSIONER GARY F. CLARK  
COMMISSIONER ANDREW GILES FAY  
COMMISSIONER GABRIELLA PASSIDOMO SMITH

DATE: Thursday, May 29, 2025

TIME: Commenced: 9:30 a.m.  
Concluded: 12:50 p.m.

PLACE: Anne Kolb Nature Center  
751 Sheridan Street  
Hollywood, Florida

REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK  
Court Reporter and  
Notary Public in and for  
the State of Florida at Large

PREMIER REPORTING  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
(850) 894-0828

1 APPEARANCES:

2 JOHN BURNETT, MONICA BARNES, ESQUIRES, 700  
3 Universe Boulevard, Juno Beach, FL 33408-0420; KENNETH  
4 A. HOFFMAN, ESQUIRE, 134 West Jefferson Street,  
5 Tallahassee, FL 32301-1713; appearing on behalf of  
6 Florida Power & Light Company (FPL).

7 WALT TRIERWEILER, PUBLIC COUNSEL, OFFICE OF  
8 PUBLIC COUNSEL, c/o The Florida Legislature, 111 West  
9 Madison Street, Room 812, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1400,  
10 appearing on behalf of the Citizens of the State of  
11 Florida (OPC).

12 BRADLEY MARSHALL and JORDAN LUEBKEMANN,  
13 ESQUIRES, Earthjustice, 111 S. Martin Luther King Jr.  
14 Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32301; DANIELLE McMANAMON,  
15 ESQUIRE, Earthjustice, 4500 Biscayne Boulevard, Suite  
16 201, Miami, FL 33137; appearing on behalf of Florida  
17 Rising, Inc. (Florida Rising), League of United Latin  
18 American Citizens of Florida (LULAC), and Environmental  
19 Confederation of Southwest Florida, Inc. (ECOSWF).

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1 APPEARANCES CONTINUED:

2                   TIMOTHY SPARKS, ESQUIRE, FPSC General  
3 Counsel's Office, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard,  
4 Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850, appearing on behalf of the  
5 Florida Public Service Commission (Staff).

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WITNESS:

PAGE

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Well, good morning,  
3 everybody. I hear the silence. That must mean  
4 that it is it's time to rock and roll.

5 Good morning. I am Mike La Rosa. It's an  
6 honor to be the Chair of to the Florida Public  
7 Service Commission.

8 I will allow my fellow Commissioners to  
9 introduce themselves, and then we will just go  
10 through a few housekeeping measures and jump right  
11 into customer testimony.

12 So we will start off here to my left with  
13 Commissioner Clark.

14 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 My name is Gary Clark. It is a privilege for  
16 us to be here with you. I look forward to  
17 receiving your testimony today. On behalf of the  
18 Commission, let me say thank you for taking time  
19 out of you have schedules to be here with us today.  
20 This is a very important part of the process, and  
21 we do value your input and are really interested in  
22 hearing about the service that you receive from  
23 Florida Power & Light.

24 Thank you very much.

25 COMMISSIONER PASSIDOMO SMITH: Good morning.

1 I am Gabriella. I am another one of the five  
2 Commissioners up here. I just want to echo my  
3 colleagues, and thank you for inviting us to your  
4 beautiful communities. It's a treat to be so close  
5 to the beach down here.

6 I wanted to just also say, I know that many so  
7 of your friends and neighbors might not be able to  
8 be here this morning, they might be at work, or  
9 whatever the case may be, but they are welcome. We  
10 encourage them to submit written comments to the  
11 Commission Clerk, and they will get to our offices.  
12 We read them just as if they were standing in front  
13 of us this morning. So please tell your friends  
14 and neighbors that their opportunity to be heard is  
15 not lost just because they are not here this  
16 morning.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER GRAHAM: Good morning. My name  
19 is Art Graham, and I am also one of the  
20 Commissioners, and I want to thank you all for  
21 having us here, and looking forward to your  
22 comments.

23 COMMISSIONER FAY: Good morning. Commissioner  
24 Andrew Fay, and I also just want to reiterate and  
25 thank you for being here. I was glad to see a good

1 turnout for this meeting this morning. I look  
2 forward to hearing your comments.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Excellent. Well, thank  
5 you.

6 And of course, the purpose of our meeting  
7 today is the Florida Power & Light's request for a  
8 rate adjustment. This is a service hearing. This  
9 is a very important part of the hearing process.  
10 Obviously, we get the opportunity to come to you  
11 and to hear directly from you to hear about your  
12 customer experience with Florida Power & Light.

13 Again, just a few housekeeping measures. And  
14 I should know, but I think it's either to my left,  
15 if I am not mistaken, there is a large screen, or  
16 is to my right? Okay, to my right, to your left.  
17 There is a large screen there intended for  
18 translation from English to Spanish. So everything  
19 that we are saying should be appearing there in  
20 Spanish, and the same thing, of course, as anyone  
21 that approaches and provides comments.

22 We also have Gloria to our far right, not a  
23 Commissioner, but a translator for us. So if you  
24 do prefer to speak in Spanish, just maybe speak in  
25 small segments, and then Gloria will be able to

1 translate for us, and for you, into English. So  
2 hopefully that is helpful and convenient.

3 So let's go ahead and officially get rolling  
4 and let's start with staff reading the notice.

5 MR. SPARKS: By notice issued May 14th, 2025,  
6 this time and place has been set for a Customer  
7 Service Hearing in Docket No. 20250011-EI. The  
8 purpose of the service hearing is set for the  
9 record more fully in the notice.

10 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great. Thank you.

11 Let's go ahead and take appearances. We will  
12 start with Florida Power & Light.

13 MS. BARNES: Good morning, Monica Barnes  
14 appearing on behalf of Florida Power & Light  
15 Company. And I would also like to enter an  
16 appearance for John Burnett, our General Counsel.

17 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: The Office of Public  
18 Counsel.

19 MR. TRIERWEILER: Walt Trierweiler for the  
20 Office of Public Counsel.

21 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: League of United Latin  
22 American Citizens, Florida Rising.

23 MR. LUEBKEMANN: Jordan Luebke on behalf  
24 of League of United Latin American Citizens, the  
25 Environmental Confederation of Southwest Florida

1 and Florida Rising. I would also like to enter an  
2 appearance for co-counsel Daniel McManamon and  
3 Bradley Marshall.

4 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Okay. Thank you.

5 Again, thank you all for participating today,  
6 and it's going to be certainly important for us to  
7 hear about the quality of service that you guys may  
8 have experience with FPL.

9 In August, there will be a more technical  
10 hearing where the Commission will hear from  
11 witnesses about evidence in this case. I encourage  
12 you all to watch the hearing on our website, that  
13 will help you better understand the process and you  
14 how we evaluate and how we ultimately make  
15 different decisions.

16 In addition to sharing your comments here, you  
17 can also provide written comments or additional  
18 material by mail or by email. The rate case  
19 overview, it's a green paper that was handed out as  
20 you walked in. There is still some copies there  
21 available in the lobby if you would like to take a  
22 look at that, and to better understand how to  
23 provide written comments, or comments via email and  
24 as Commissioner Passidomo Smith mentioned, those go  
25 into the record. We review them just like if you

1           were standing here before us today.

2           If you have any specific billing issues,  
3           employees from FPL are here to assist you. I  
4           believe I saw a blue tent out just past the lobby  
5           as you walked in. They are there to be able to  
6           help you with any billing issues directly from the  
7           company.

8           Commission staff is also here to answer any  
9           general questions that you might have about the  
10          rate case or the rate case process.

11          So before we hear from customers, I would like  
12          to open just a few quick brief opening statements  
13          from the parties. The parties know the process.  
14          We have been doing this the last couple of days,  
15          and continuing into next week. As they know, there  
16          is a light in front of them, and you will see that  
17          also from the customer presentation, and they know  
18          how that works. So let's go ahead and start with  
19          opening statements.

20          Office of Public Counsel, you are recognized.

21          MR. TRIERWEILER: Good morning. I am Walt  
22          Trierweiler, the Public Counsel for the State of  
23          Florida. My office, the Office of Public Counsel,  
24          or OPC as we are sometimes known, was created by  
25          the Legislature 51 years ago to give customers a

1 voice in these proceedings. My office serves the  
2 citizens of Florida as an effective customer  
3 advocate in utility cases that are originally  
4 brought before the Public Service Commission.

5 Today I want you to know that the Office of  
6 Public Counsel actively opposes the increases FPL  
7 has proposed in 2026 and 2027. Our theme is  
8 affordability, and we argue, with the help of eight  
9 nationally respected experts, against all aspects  
10 of FPL's two rate increases, as well as the  
11 proposed Tax Recovery Mechanism. We assert that  
12 these increases and the Tax Recovery Mechanism will  
13 result in unfair, unjust and unreasonable rates for  
14 you.

15 I am not going to take the time today to tell  
16 you all the things that we are doing to resolve  
17 this case in your favor, but I do want you to be  
18 confident in the extensive discovery that my office  
19 has conducted with FPL, the hours my team has  
20 devoted to studying thousands of pages of documents  
21 that have been disclosed in discovery from FPL, the  
22 depositions that we conducted of FPL, and we have  
23 done all of that to identify reductions that should  
24 be made to FPL's rate increase.

25 I also want you to be confident that your

1 voice is a valuable part in this rate case. These  
2 rate increases have not yet been decided, and these  
3 Commissioners, who are traveling all over the state  
4 from Miami to Pensacola, are here to listen to you.  
5 This is your customer service hearing.

6 Please share your thoughts as clearly and  
7 persuasively as you can, because your sworn  
8 testimony will be considered by the Commission and  
9 the parties, both now and in the future, when the  
10 Commission examines all of the evidence in front of  
11 them to approve only that portion of FPL's rate  
12 increases that are reasonable, prudent and in the  
13 public interest.

14 I invite you to share the details of your  
15 experiences as a customer of FPL, and to share the  
16 personal impacts FPL's proposed rate increases will  
17 have upon you, your family, your friends or your  
18 business.

19 Do be mindful of the time so that your  
20 neighbors may also have time to speak. And if  
21 someone says something that you agree with, you can  
22 just say ditto, or I agree with Maria Casas, or the  
23 man in the blue hat, and then provide whatever  
24 details that you wish.

25 Thank you again for taking the time to be here

1           today. We look forward to hearing from you.

2           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great. Thank you.

3           Florida Rising, LULAC.

4           MR. LUEBKEMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5           Jordan Luebkekmann on behalf of Florida Rising,  
6           League of United Latin American Citizens, better  
7           known as LULAC, and the Environmental Confederation  
8           of Southwest Florida, better known as ECOSWF.

9           Florida Rising, LULAC and ECOSWF are  
10          organizations composed primarily of residential  
11          customers, and they are in this rate case because  
12          their customers -- their members can't afford FPL's  
13          \$9.8 billion requested rate hike. Too many  
14          Floridians are already unable to afford their  
15          electric bills, especially since FPL's last huge  
16          rate hike in 2021. By bills, I mean the amount of  
17          money that actually comes out of your pockets each  
18          month. Not some fancy calculation.

19          For 2023, the latest year for which we have  
20          complete data, the average residential bill for FPL  
21          was \$170 a month for residential customers,  
22          compared to the then national average of \$132 per  
23          month, that's about \$450 a year more for FPL. That  
24          made FPL the tenth highest bill for residential  
25          customers in the entire country among

1 investor-owned electric utilities for that year.

2 Today, even as FPL asks for this rate  
3 increase, preliminary data shows that the average  
4 residential customer in FPL's territory is on track  
5 to pay about \$400 more than they did for the same  
6 electric service in 2021.

7 We agree with the Office of Public Counsel.  
8 We don't think that FPL has shown any need for the  
9 requested rate increase, and we oppose every cent  
10 of it.

11 Of course, living in Florida, means living  
12 with storms. I am sure you all want to know your  
13 power is going to come back on and quickly when  
14 that happens. The good news is that FPL already  
15 does that, and I am sure that long time customers  
16 will note that restoration times have gotten  
17 faster, but that's not because of the money awarded  
18 in rate cases like this one.

19 FPL comes before the same commission in a  
20 completely unrelated docket for a storm protection  
21 plan, where FPL will also asks for and receives  
22 billions of dollars just to make their grid more  
23 resilient and more storm ready. So if you think  
24 FPL needs to money to be ready for hurricane season  
25 or to keep your lights coming back on quickly, they

1            simply don't. They've already got that handled in  
2            a different case.

3            Finally, as a quick housekeeping matter, I  
4            know that FPL may have reached out to some of you  
5            and asked you to come support their rate increase  
6            today. You might be involved in an organization  
7            that receives funding or association dues from FPL  
8            or an affiliate, or you might have FPL or an  
9            affiliate on your board. That is perfectly all  
10           right, but that is relevant information for the  
11           record. In the interest of holding an efficient  
12           hearing, I just ask that you go ahead and disclose  
13           that in your comments so that I don't have to take  
14           up more time asking you those questions on  
15           cross-examination.

16           With that, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.  
17           Thank you all for being here, and I look forward to  
18           your testimony.

19           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great. Thank you.

20           And, Ms. Barnes, I apologize, right. You are  
21           sitting down there. I looked right over you guys,  
22           and normally I would have started with you guys in  
23           the way appearances were set forth. So, Madam, you  
24           are recognized to acknowledge Florida Power &  
25           Light.

1 MS. BARNES: Thanks, Chairman La Rosa.

2 Dawn Nichols, Vice-President of Customer  
3 Service will deliver remarks on behalf of FPL.

4 MS. NICHOLS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and  
5 Commissioners.

6 Again, my name is Dawn Nichols. I am the  
7 Vice-President of Customer Service for Florida  
8 Power & Light Company.

9 Let me begin by thanking our customers who  
10 have taken the time to meet with us today and  
11 provide your feedback. We are honored to serve  
12 you. We are here because we have asked the Public  
13 Service Commission for new base rates beginning in  
14 2026.

15 I am proud to be among the 9,000 FPL employees  
16 who work hard every day to serve you and to provide  
17 you with the nation's best combination of high  
18 reliability, resiliency and low bills, but we can  
19 always be better, which is why your feedback is so  
20 important to us.

21 FPL's mission is to deliver reliable  
22 electricity every day while keeping bills as low as  
23 possible. Today, FPL's service is 59 percent more  
24 reliable than the national average, and our typical  
25 residential bill is lower than at that was two

1 decades ago when adjusted for inflation. This is  
2 the result of smart investments and a culture of  
3 continuous improvement.

4 Our team works relentlessly to improve our  
5 service to you. By operating the most efficient  
6 utility in America, we save the typical customer  
7 roughly \$24 a month. And we also save customers  
8 more than 16 billion in fuel costs by modernizing  
9 our power plant fleet, which includes natural gas,  
10 nuclear and solar generation.

11 That's what this rate request is about,  
12 continuing these smart investments to deliver  
13 reliable service, while advancing resiliency and  
14 keeping bills as low as possible.

15 It's been four years since our last rate  
16 request, and Florida is growing fast. Meeting  
17 Florida's growing demand for power, making our grid  
18 more resilient to severe weather and delivering the  
19 outstanding service our customers expect and  
20 deserve will require significant new investment.

21 Even with the proposed increase, typical FPL  
22 bills are expected to stay well below the national  
23 average. While we work hard to keep bills low, we  
24 recognize some customers face challenges. My team  
25 and I are always here to help. Customer advocates

1 are on-site today to help you with any concerns,  
2 including many programs we have for energy  
3 efficiency and bill assistance.

4 At FPL, customers always come first. We have  
5 let our customers know about these service hearings  
6 so they can share their experiences with the  
7 company. We want to hear what we do well, but more  
8 importantly, we want to hear what we can improve.  
9 So thank you for participating, and thank you for  
10 the opportunity to serve you.

11 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

12 Are there any elected officials in the room?  
13 Normally we give elected officials the opportunity  
14 to start us off. Are there any in the room?  
15 Seeing none, okay. Let's --

16 COMMISSIONER FAY: Mr. Chairman.

17 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Madam, do they plan to  
18 speak? No, okay. All right.

19 All right. Then let's move on to customer  
20 testimony.

21 Your comments will be part of the official  
22 record and, therefore, subject to  
23 cross-examination. That is by no means intended to  
24 be intimidating. It's just intended so that we  
25 better understand it. Those questions could come

1 from us as Commissioners, could come from one of  
2 the parties that are here today, just there to  
3 clarify the record.

4 If you have signed up to speak, or plan to  
5 speak, if you don't mind standing up so we can take  
6 a quick oath. So if you do plan to speak, or you  
7 signed up to speak, please stand up and raise your  
8 right hand.

9 (Whereupon, Chairman La Rosa administered the  
10 oath.)

11 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Excellent. Thank you. You  
12 may have a seat.

13 To make sure that you and your neighbors all  
14 have an equal opportunity to provide input, please  
15 limit your comments to three minutes. Please be  
16 mindful of the light to my left of the podium here,  
17 so that -- so you see as your time is starting to  
18 conclude.

19 We do have a lot of folks that have signed up.  
20 Last night's meeting went extremely long. I want  
21 to be very respectful to everybody's time. There  
22 may be a point where I have to start to limit the  
23 comments to a shorter period of time. If you have  
24 heard comments that you also want to provide,  
25 please feel free to say ditto, like we discussed

1 earlier, or just maybe reference that person's  
2 comments. And again, if you don't get the  
3 opportunity to finish what you would like to say,  
4 you can always enter what you would like for us to  
5 review, or like for us to have been heard in  
6 writing or via email right into the record. So  
7 just as complimentary as you being up here  
8 presenting before us.

9 The Public Counsel, Mr. Trierweiler, will be  
10 helping me out today. He will start by calling two  
11 names at a time, again, just to have a flow to  
12 start to move relatively quickly to be efficient  
13 with y'all's time.

14 So, I think we are ready to roll. Mr.  
15 Trierweiler, you can go ahead and start us off.

16 MR. TRIERWEILER: And to make the most  
17 effective use of our time, I am going to call the  
18 first speaker, and then I will call two others to  
19 be on deck. And if you would make your way down  
20 toward the front and either have a seat or stand  
21 off to the end so that we make the most effective  
22 use of time, I would appreciate that.

23 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Perfect. That sounds good.

24 MR. TRIERWEILER: Al Salvi will start us off,  
25 and then we will hear from Fernando Mendoza and

1 Joseph Feinberg.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT

3 MR. SALVI: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and  
4 Commissioners of PSC, everyone. Thank you for  
5 having me today.

6 I am here to speak today some important points  
7 I want to bring up, some things are overlooked when  
8 making the decisions and don't know how really  
9 affect certain segments of the public, so I am here  
10 to represent three communities right now. I am  
11 here to represent the seniors. I am here to  
12 represent the disabled, okay. And I am here to  
13 represent minorities. Okay. That's three. So I  
14 am here for all the residents. Okay, I am looking  
15 at a 1,000 kilowatt from FPL here. You are going  
16 up 15 percent in '26, and you are going up 23  
17 percent in '27. I don't know about you all, but my  
18 whole increase in Social Security was 2.5, and  
19 looking at 2.3 come '26. I can't keep up with this  
20 rate increase as a ratepayer. I own a home. I am  
21 a homeowner. Home insurance in Florida is going  
22 through the roof. There is rising costs all over.  
23 We are struggling.

24 One area most people overlook, and this is  
25 very touching to me as a person, as a ratepayer,

1           because I have to make very difficult decisions. I  
2           am going to show you a visual, because this is an  
3           important one. This is a visual.

4                     You all know what this is? This is a bottle  
5           of medication that I brought to show you. And you  
6           noticed, there is no prescription on it, right?  
7           There is nothing on here. And the reason I bring  
8           this in here is because I have to determine whether  
9           or not I can pay for that medicine \$450 a month  
10          versus pay my electric bill.

11                    Obviously, electricity I think is just as  
12          important as anything for my health, but if I go  
13          without this medicine, I won't be here to talk next  
14          year. So basically I have to decide how to make  
15          those two things balance. So what I do is I get  
16          samples from my doctor every month, a 28-day  
17          supply, my formulary Medicare -- this used to be on  
18          my Medicare formulary, which has been knocked down,  
19          no longer existing for my formulary, so Medicare  
20          has made cutbacks, and their cost savings, along  
21          with FPL and other large corporations, and forget  
22          how they are affecting people.

23                    These pills cost me \$450 a month. Obviously,  
24          I have to decide whether I can continue to take my  
25          most needed necessary medications to stay alive, or

1           whether I pay the electric bill, a light bill, and  
2           all because why? Because they want to gain an 11.5  
3           increase return on investment to provide to the  
4           shareholders, hey, look, how profitable we are.  
5           Yeah, off of whose back? Off of me, and I have to  
6           decide how I am going to afford food, and cost of  
7           living on a 2.5 percent increase when you increase  
8           to almost 13 percent.

9                     Now, we know we had a large increase in '21.  
10           That, to me, was -- that was sticker shock back  
11           then in '21. And now you are hitting me with even  
12           a larger increase, okay, of 11.5 return on  
13           investment, when the national average is 9.5, okay.

14                    Shareholders aren't here standing before you  
15           right now showing you what they have to deal with.  
16           I am here representing ratepayers, showing you what  
17           I have to deal with. This is about me right now,  
18           and you are affecting my livelihood. You are  
19           affecting my family. These rate increases are  
20           going to put me over the edge. I may not even be  
21           able to live it in Florida because the cost of  
22           living is so high for a person with a disability.

23                    Florida has always been welcoming to people  
24           with disabilities. Florida has been welcoming to  
25           seniors, and most of us have to leave because we

1 can no longer afford to live here because of things  
2 like this, okay.

3 FPL needs to reconsider their condition, make  
4 -- obviously, we are not making more real estate.  
5 We are willing to pay. I paid in '21, but I am not  
6 willing to pay 11.5 in this case, 15 percent, and  
7 23 percent in '27, as proposed in this sheet,  
8 because somebody decides, you know, what I need  
9 more return on my investment for my shareholders.  
10 That's not what this is about.

11 Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you. I don't mind  
13 the clapping or the emotion, but just know that it  
14 does provide feedback, and it does mess with the  
15 interpretation system, and it does slow Mr.  
16 Trierweiler down calling names, so just if we can  
17 just please keep that in mind.

18 MR. MENDOZA: Good morning, everyone. My name  
19 Fernando Mendoza. I am part of FloridaMakes, the  
20 MVP of the state and, you know, some of our  
21 comments is basically innovation South Florida  
22 manufacturing sector, it's important to also  
23 acknowledge the critical role that FPL has played  
24 in making all these costs. You know -- the  
25 environment that affects the community. They have

1           helped companies improve their energy efficiency --  
2           down time and -- it really is everybody else, and  
3           to the previous speaker's point, the cost of doing  
4           business and living has gone up, so that also  
5           affects FPL.

6           It is very important that we focus on value,  
7           right. And FPL has done that over time and time  
8           again. Their service has remained reliable,  
9           resilient through storms, spikes in demand, and  
10          they are consistently investing in infrastructure  
11          and technology and clean energy to restore  
12          operations to manufacturers a huge part of the  
13          state and continue to function adequately.

14          And if we want to continue tracking and  
15          retaining world class companies, the fact is that  
16          we need to make sure that our power grid needs to  
17          invest. To your point earlier, yes, there are  
18          different ways they are trying to do that, but also  
19          innovation and growth, and all the other things  
20          that are happening.

21          So it is our stand that, you know, we agree  
22          with the request, and we hope that you invest in  
23          the infrastructure that is so required and  
24          important for our state and our manufacturers and,  
25          you know, all the different businesses that are in

1           this state.

2                   CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

3                   MR. TRIERWEILER: Before we hear from Joseph  
4           Feinberg, let me let Cindy Mason and Gloria  
5           Reinhardt know that they are on deck next, please.

6                   So, Joseph Feinberg, please.

7                   CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Mr. Feinberg, you are  
8           recognized, sir.

9                   MR. FEINBERG: Good morning. I am here on  
10          behalf of supporting FPL, and happy to report that  
11          they have always taken care of my home, my  
12          electricity, and I have constantly watched how they  
13          improved all their systems. Their infrastructure  
14          changes to our environment and makes it a better  
15          place for us to live.

16                  You are going to constantly hear about the  
17          cost of living. Well, my cost of living, I know,  
18          is going to continue to increase. I yearly expect  
19          a cost of living adjustment for myself. The team I  
20          work with, I know that they would never come to me  
21          and say, we are looking to ask for a reduction in  
22          salary. They are always asking for an increase.  
23          So I understand the ramifications of them not  
24          getting additional funds to support the people that  
25          they serve.

1 I am happy to answer any questions, but they  
2 have my support.

3 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you. We are good.  
4 Thank you.

5 MR. FEINBERG: Okay.

6 MR. TRIERWEILER: Cindy.

7 MS. MASON: Good morning, everyone. Cindy  
8 Mason. I have been asked to be here by Florida  
9 Power & Light, and I am going to speak on my prior  
10 experience as a market CEO with Kindred health care  
11 System, now known as ScionHealth. And at the time,  
12 as a market CEO, I was responsible for both  
13 hospitals and rehabs. And in that environment  
14 specifically, within the Kidnred space, it is known  
15 to manage very difficult patients, individuals who  
16 are typically on ventilators and require  
17 respiratory assistance. And the experience with  
18 FPL for me, as a leader, is very positive.

19 There are protocols that we have to manage  
20 within that space, and part of those protocols is  
21 to ensure that you have a strong command center so  
22 in case any emergency happens, you have the ability  
23 to have a team in place you can call in a time of  
24 need. And my experience was that when I needed to  
25 know who my Florida Power & Light person was from a

1 contact perspective, that individual was  
2 identified. So we knew who to call in that regard  
3 who made sure that each one of our hospitals were  
4 on the map, so in case of a power outage, there  
5 would be a prioritization of which locations will  
6 be -- receive the power back first before the  
7 neighborhood, because, again, of the types of  
8 critical patients that we would have.

9 So therefore, experiences -- and we live in  
10 Florida, so, you know, there are experiences where  
11 you are going to have -- power is going to go out,  
12 emergency situations, and we did experience that.  
13 And it is a scare. Let's talk about lives of  
14 individuals that are impacted by that. It is a  
15 scare when your power goes out.

16 So you, of course, have to have a Plan B in  
17 place with the generators, and we would have to  
18 make sure, of course, our generators are working  
19 effectively, but, you know, you don't want to be in  
20 a position where, if the power goes out, that you  
21 don't have lights, maybe the generator don't kick  
22 in when it's supposed to, and you are dealing with  
23 individuals who are on ventilators. In those  
24 instances, it would require an Ambu bag, where you  
25 have to manually have staff, you know, make sure

1           that they are providing ventilation for those  
2           patients. And, again, it becomes a situation where  
3           you have to take, you know, lives into  
4           consideration.

5           So I am here to share that experience, because  
6           it was very positive with FPL, and they were very  
7           responsive, and they were always reliable. And  
8           that's what you need when you are in that type of  
9           setting dealing with patients in that need.

10           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

11           MR. TRIERWEILER: We will hear from Gloria  
12           next, and then Laney Morgenstern, Richard Vogel and  
13           Britt Lanier.

14           MS. REINHARDT: Good morning, everyone. My  
15           name is Gloria Reinhardt. I live in Coral Springs,  
16           and I am a longtime FPL customer. Thank you for  
17           the opportunity to speak today.

18           I am here to express my concerns regarding the  
19           proposed rate increase. And we should all note  
20           that this proposed increase does not consider other  
21           costs that FPL is going to come for us. They are  
22           going to ask us to pay extra fuel charges, as they  
23           have in the past. They are going to possibly ask  
24           us to pay additional storm restoration recovery  
25           charges.

1 FPL wants 11.9 percent guaranteed profit for  
2 themselves. Now, keep in mind that the national  
3 average of all across the country is  
4 nine-and-a-half percent. I want to emphasize that  
5 this increase they are asking for will be the  
6 largest electricity rate increase in the U.S.  
7 history. Let me repeat that. This increase, if  
8 approved, will be the largest electricity rate  
9 increase in the United States history. Seriously?  
10 I mean, when we are hit with all these other costs,  
11 you are going -- you are going for the gold?

12 So when you think about how the average  
13 temperature is increasing about one degree per  
14 year, down here in Florida for sure, we consumers  
15 are already paying rather high to FPL.

16 And the other thing that I want to bring up is  
17 FPL is a monopoly. The rate of return on all  
18 investments usually considers the amount of risk an  
19 investor takes. 11.9 percent would be one of those  
20 returns that you expect that there is some high  
21 degree of risk.

22 I can't find where that risk is for FPL. They  
23 don't -- they don't have to market to me to be a  
24 customer. When I moved to Florida, there was one  
25 choice. It's a monopoly. I had no choice. When

1           they raise rates, I have to pay. I have no choice.  
2           So why does FPL need that excessive return for  
3           something that carries a low risk? That's my  
4           opinion. And I don't think they should be allowed  
5           to have their bill -- their profits on the backs of  
6           residential customers like me.

7                     And one final thing. Many older Florida  
8           adults live on fixed incomes, and they are  
9           struggling to keep up with the high cost of living.  
10          I think that's been mentioned already. I -- if any  
11          of you have gotten a homeowners increase less than  
12          double what it was last year, I would be surprised.  
13          We are getting squeezed.

14                    Seniors are moving to smaller homes. They are  
15          going into condos. They turn the thermostat up  
16          just another degree, another degree and another  
17          degree, to try to contain these costs. And they  
18          are being squeezed in all directions. So,  
19          therefore, I urge this commission to thoroughly  
20          scrutinize this request and put the needs of  
21          12 million Floridians above corporate profits.  
22          Please reject FPL's proposal to unfairly raise our  
23          electric utility rates.

24                    Thank you.

25                    CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

1 MR. TRIERWEILER: Lanie Morgenstern.

2 MS. MORGENSTERN: Good morning. My name is  
3 Laney Morgenstern, and as a longtime resident, over  
4 30 years, here in south Florida and an FPL  
5 customer, I just would like to bring to the  
6 attention of the Commission that for all of us who  
7 live here in south Florida, I think sometimes you  
8 can live in a bubble and not realize what is going  
9 on in the rest of the country. And I have been  
10 fortunate to be able to live in other areas, in  
11 other states, and then come back, with jobs I have  
12 moved. And one of the things that I have noticed  
13 is that when I have moved, you know, to other  
14 areas, or traveled, that my electric bill was maybe  
15 four times the amount of what I paid here in  
16 Florida for my Florida Power & Light utility bill.  
17 I mean, astronomically larger amounts in other  
18 areas of the country, especially in the northeast,  
19 and that's very common.

20 So I think, you know, we have the luxury here  
21 between FPL, all of the other, you know, benefits  
22 of being a Floridan, South Floridaian, that, you  
23 know, other people in the rest of, you know, the  
24 country, don't get to experience. And when I hear  
25 people talking about what's important, you know, to

1           this big company, it's one of the only companies  
2           that I -- that I worked -- that I pay my bills to  
3           that regularly reaches out to me as a customer to  
4           tell me how I can reduce, you know, my personal  
5           electric bill, giving me tips, giving me, you know,  
6           advice, coming out, you know. When I call, they  
7           are there. I mean, you -- really, you get you what  
8           pay for.

9           And I just -- I think that the increased costs  
10          of what's going on of having to go to the grocery  
11          store or, you know, that we are all experiencing,  
12          you know, obviously that is upset somehow, and it's  
13          unfortunate what we do collectively like this, I  
14          don't think that it's that much in the big picture  
15          of what, you know, what we are paying. I think  
16          it's -- they are very forthright. They are honest.  
17          My bills are actually lower today than they were in  
18          the other state that I moved to 10 years ago.

19          So I just wanted to give some perspective on,  
20          as a consumer, how I think about that. Thank you.

21          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you. Madam, do you  
22          mind answering one quick question?

23          MS. MORGENSTERN: Sure.

24          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: You are recognized.

25          MR. LUEBKEMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 I just have a quick question. Were you  
2 previously employed by FPL?

3 MS. MORGENSTERN: I was previously employed by  
4 FPL Energy about 25 years ago, 20 years ago.

5 MR. LUEBKEMANN: Thank you.

6 MS. MORGENSTERN: Thank you.

7 MR. TRIERWEILER: Richard Vogel.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT

9 MR. VOGEL: How are you? I was asked by FPL  
10 to come talk about some of my experiences with  
11 them. I have dealt with the FPL through some of  
12 the associations that I have been involved with for  
13 about the last 20 years.

14 In the company that I work for in Port  
15 Everglades, we were doing a new project, and we  
16 were in a very bad timeline crunch during COVID,  
17 and during a logistic nightmare of not getting  
18 things done. We were finally getting ready to get  
19 the terminal in service, hurricane hit, they were  
20 gone. Somehow they pulled out the miracle and got  
21 power to our facility. I still don't know how they  
22 did it, but they stepped up and they did it, and  
23 that's something that should be commended.

24 On a personal side, I live on a piece of  
25 property on Parkland, and they leased out a piece

1 of their property to a construction crew. And the  
2 contractors are bad, they are nasty, they are  
3 noisy, and they were horrible. As soon as I found  
4 out who to talk to with FPL, they curtailed it.  
5 They listened to my complaints. They stopped the  
6 late-night making the noise, and they gave me the  
7 deadline for how long they thought it was going to  
8 take place for, and they lived to that deadline.  
9 So they responded to my concerns as far as a  
10 customer, private customer as well in that aspect  
11 of it.

12 My previous life, I used to supply all the --  
13 for all the power lines. I have seen them take  
14 down those nasty power plants to go to natural gas.  
15 I don't know what that costs for infrastructure in  
16 Port Everglades up to West Palm Beach, but I  
17 witnessed them both. You drive through the center  
18 of the stated, and you see the solar panels. So  
19 they have taken steps for renewable fuels versus  
20 burning, contamination and putting in into the air.

21 So as far as rate increase, that's for you  
22 decide, but I have seen them put back  
23 infrastructure where it's needed and they have  
24 stepped up.

25 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

1           MR. TRIERWEILER: After we hear from Britt  
2 Lanier, we have Mari Soto, Sheri Brown Grosvenor  
3 and Cynthia Peterson, please.

4                           PUBLIC COMMENT

5           MR. LANIER: Good morning. I am going to take  
6 this off if I can. I am a little tall, sorry.

7           Hi, my name is Britt Lanier. I was born  
8 raised here in Florida. I am a Broward resident,  
9 and I run a business in Davie for 26 years. I am  
10 here to support FPL's request. Before you ask, I  
11 do serve on a board with an FPL person. It's a  
12 board of 150.

13           You know, I think as a business owner,  
14 probably the most important thing to me is, you  
15 know, I can't stay in business and do my business  
16 without power. You know, nobody enjoys paying more  
17 for services. I believe the increases both  
18 reasonable and is necessary considering the quality  
19 of service that FPL gives us.

20           Over the years, I have noticed a decrease in  
21 things like outages, flickers, and that kind of  
22 thing. I feel like FPL has responded to them.

23           At my home, I had a power problem. It wasn't  
24 a result of FPL, but they did come out and they  
25 tested my house. They actually did end up

1 replacing the pole and the transformer, and I felt  
2 like they were very responsive to that, and I think  
3 that's very important.

4 For my business, we have a bunch of trees that  
5 were planted probably in the wrong -- right tree in  
6 the wrong spot, growing into the power lines. And  
7 FPL is very consistent with keeping those, you  
8 know, trees trimmed and cleared so that we have  
9 reliable power.

10 Again, I think that it's -- you know, we need  
11 to look more -- I think what we need to look to is  
12 not just -- you know, I think we need to look more  
13 past today's service and look to the future. I  
14 think that, you know, upgrading our infrastructure,  
15 which is what FPL does, I think is very important.  
16 I think as a business owner, I find that that is  
17 something that we can count on being able to turn  
18 on the lights and be able to run my computers, and  
19 be able to answer my phones.

20 That's it. Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

22 MR. TRIERWEILER: Ms. Soto.

23 PUBLIC COMMENT

24 MS. SOTO: Good morning, and thank you for  
25 this opportunity. My name is Mari Soto. Our FPL

1 account dates back nearly 50 years, to 1977. I am  
2 elderly and medically essential. June 10th, 2024,  
3 was the last time I -- and mailed, and FPL  
4 acknowledged. I have been on the smart meter  
5 opt-out program since its inception over 15 years.

6 On August 15th, 2024, FPL and PSC, I provided  
7 documentation from my doctor which states that I  
8 have serious RMF sensitivity due to my health  
9 conditions, but none of these things mattered. On  
10 July 1st, 2024, the peak south Florida summer  
11 month, FPL took my analog meter, closed my account  
12 and left me in the dark, in the heat, spoiled food,  
13 killed pond coy, causing undue hardship. Cut off  
14 from all power nearly one year now, intimidation,  
15 threats, coercion and downright bullying.

16 FPL took our analog meter. FPL sent not one,  
17 but two very large trucks to trade meters, and all  
18 sorts of gear. About 10 FPL men swarmed the front  
19 of our property. All my neighbors came out to see  
20 what was happening.

21 The six-foot fence held them at bay until I  
22 came to the front gate. FPL instructed them to  
23 take my analog meter and replace it with a smart  
24 meter. FPL alleged we were not providing the meter  
25 readers access. I explained that this was not

1 true, because about one week earlier, on or about  
2 June 24th, 2024, my meter was read by an FPL  
3 employee.

4 I also explained about the numerous letters,  
5 phone calls on my health -- and my health and  
6 physician response, but none of that mattered.  
7 Years of compliance didn't matter. My account  
8 being paid didn't matter. The opt-out extortion  
9 fees I paid didn't matter. My health didn't  
10 matter, and I didn't matter.

11 They said that if I did not allow them to take  
12 their property, quote/unquote, my analog meter,  
13 they were going to return with police and I would  
14 be arrested, then they would take my analog meter,  
15 replace it with a smart meter anyway, so I might as  
16 well cooperate.

17 Without recourse to a lawyer as to legal costs  
18 and the emotional and mental stress, not to mention  
19 the physical toll on my health, I allowed -- I  
20 allowed them to remove my analog meter. My meter  
21 having been read only one week before did not fit  
22 the FPL narrative, so they disregarded that fact to  
23 this day. The narrative that I was not allowing  
24 the meter to be read is they had tried several  
25 times over the years by doing unannounced visits,

1 leaving door hangers, following up with  
2 unsubstantiated letters alleging that they were not  
3 allowed on the property to read the meter, but  
4 because I had given my phone number to all of the  
5 meter readers that came to our property, I was  
6 always able to have my meter read. So Alex,  
7 George -- I can give you the phone numbers, I have  
8 them in here -- Gonzalo, JC, MR, Leo, Robert, just  
9 to name a few.

10 So FPL kept changing the meter reader, failed  
11 to provide prior notice to access the property in  
12 order to seemingly fulfill their allegations. But  
13 even FPL's final attempt to justify taking our  
14 analog meter failed, because about one week before,  
15 as I stated, FPL meter reader Andro Blanco came to  
16 our property and read the meter.

17 So their allegations continue to be unfounded,  
18 unjustified, false. FPL's actions are shameful  
19 against people like -- like myself. FPL is well  
20 aware of who they can bully and get away with it.  
21 FPL's new motto should be changed to FPL, working  
22 for itself every single day.

23 FPL and NextEra, their parent company,  
24 executives average millions in annual income. I  
25 calculated some make over \$500 an hour, well over

1           \$500 an hour. And I wondered what kind of job  
2           description justifies this high income.

3           I most definitely am with you and with the  
4           others that are against this rate increase. It is  
5           criminal what they are doing, criminal what they  
6           are doing to people like myself, not corporations  
7           and former FPL employees, but little guys like me.

8           I am -- I oppose this and all future FPL  
9           increases.

10           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your  
11           testimony.

12           MR. TRIERWEILER: After we hear from Sheri, we  
13           have Cynthia Peterson and Willie James.

14                           PUBLIC COMMENT

15           MS. GROSVENOR: Good morning, and thank you  
16           for this opportunity. My name is Sheri Brown  
17           Grovesnor, and I opened a community foundation  
18           where I lived for a very long time.

19           The Community Foundation of Broward is one of  
20           the major funders here in Broward County, and our  
21           goal and mission is to, through philanthropy,  
22           enables us to bring back to this community \$20  
23           million impact on critical issues, and we are in  
24           the top 100 community foundations in the nation.

25           Now, our organization does have a very strong

1 relationship with FPL. One of the executives is  
2 the past board chair for two years, and under our  
3 leadership, we mapped out our goals, and actually  
4 established a nonprofit resource center to help  
5 strengthen the capacity of the nonprofit center  
6 community and provide critical services and  
7 programs that our residents need.

8 So I am here to share, from a philanthropic  
9 standpoint, how FPL has been a major supporter of  
10 our nonprofits in the community through the  
11 Community Foundation of Broward. Notably this  
12 hurricane season, and the Community Foundation  
13 partners with the Youth Federation and Broward  
14 United Way for getting disaster relief effort  
15 called Broward Cares. And a couple years ago, when  
16 Hurricane Ian, I believe came through, FPL was one  
17 of the first companies to step up and provide  
18 support to our residents through Broward Cares,  
19 which we manage. And that money goes directly back  
20 into the community. There are no fees or anything  
21 associated with that. It's just a way for us to  
22 collect donations from individuals and companies to  
23 support our residents relief efforts.

24 And during that storm, thanks to FPL, we did  
25 support over 100,000 residents with food, shelter,

1 as well as basic needs and supplies, water.

2 So in conclusion, FPL is a very strong  
3 community partner. We see them sponsoring us and  
4 nonprofit organizations, supporting their programs,  
5 from children's workforce programs to senior  
6 programs.

7 And then on a personal note, a few months ago  
8 I was managing a property, and the resident of that  
9 property could no longer pay their FPL bill, and  
10 they had respiratory issues. And I called FPL on  
11 behalf of that resident, and they were able to keep  
12 the lights on basically for a period of time until  
13 that person could get the needed assistance from a  
14 nonprofit that provides services. So that was a  
15 way that FPL really stepped up, in my opinion, to  
16 help someone in need, and allowed for them to stay  
17 in their home with electricity for a period of  
18 time.

19 And in conclusion, FPL has been a strong  
20 partner. They support the residents. They show  
21 up, and they are willing to keep the lights on,  
22 they are really here on the philanthropic side of  
23 things.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your

1 testimony.

2 MR. TRIERWEILER: After we hear from Cynthia  
3 Peterson, we will be hearing from Willie James and  
4 Samuel Goodman.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT

6 MS. PETERSON: Good morning. My name is  
7 Cynthia Peterson. I lived in Vero Beach, Florida,  
8 three years, and the City of Vero Beach owned the  
9 power company. Just before I left, that was sold  
10 to power -- Florida Power & Light, which was a  
11 blessing, because the rates came down from \$400 a  
12 month to about \$100 a month. And then I moved to  
13 Ft. Lauderdale where, for years, I managed the  
14 Broward County medical Association as their CEO.  
15 Physicians depend on power during their time, you  
16 know, during the day, they always have to have  
17 power. That's one thing.

18 I have been a resident of Florida 65 years. I  
19 am very lucky to live in Ft. Lauderdale. We have a  
20 big transformer behind our townhomes. When that  
21 blows frequently, power -- Florida Power & Light is  
22 always there to fix it. It's old, very old, so I  
23 am sure we will be getting a new one.

24 I do agree that they need to increase their  
25 rates if they want to keep up with what's going on

1 in the country. The rates are still lower. I  
2 don't know where some of these other figures are  
3 coming from, but coming from Tennessee, other  
4 different states, I feel that FPL's rates are still  
5 low. But if they are going to keep up with solar  
6 power, artificial intelligence, everything that's  
7 happening in our country, they have to increase  
8 their rates, so I am speaking for Florida Power &  
9 Light.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

12 Mr. James, you are recognized, sir, when you  
13 are ready.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT

15 MR. JAMES: Hello. I am Willie James. I have  
16 been here 25 years South Florida. I am here  
17 representing FPL.

18 FPL have done a wonderful job throughout the  
19 years whenever I call, and I manage over three  
20 million square feet worth of commercial real state,  
21 from YMCA to Hobby Lobby. And when we have to  
22 replace roofs, and whenever we have to dig where we  
23 know FPL lines are there, they always there, they  
24 always on the job. And for a business owner, I  
25 know you have to compete. And the only way you can

1            compete if you raise your rates some to get the  
2            adequate equipment, whatever you need, you have to  
3            compete, and you need to raise your rates. What  
4            that rate is I don't know. But one thing I can  
5            rest assured, is that FPL is always on the job.

6            I just recently took a trip to South Africa,  
7            and we was over there a week. The power grid kept  
8            going out, and all I can think about is, damn, we  
9            blessed to be in a place in the state and have the  
10           right company on the job, so I support FPL.

11           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

12           MR. TRIERWEILER: Next, we will hear from  
13           Samuel Goodman, followed by Muhammad Abdullah and  
14           Douglas Young.

15           PUBLIC COMMENT

16           MR. GOODMAN: Hello, Commissioners. My name  
17           is Sam Goodman. I own a business, landscape, and  
18           also deal with the community with the youth,  
19           football, track, so I do deal with about 400, 500  
20           kids a year. My thing is being reliable, and FPL  
21           has been that.

22           As a business owner, I know with the rate of  
23           inflation things go up, right. This morning I went  
24           to gas up my car, and I did not know that now, at  
25           Shell, it's almost about \$4.10. So things go up.

1           So when the customer -- when prices go up on me, I  
2           have to pass it down to the customer. I have to be  
3           reliable. We can't expect the same service five  
4           years ago and pay the same thing for something now.  
5           It's just not -- that's not how it works in  
6           America, right? We all know nothing costs the  
7           same. Everything goes up. I have four kids  
8           graduating college, prices went up while they was  
9           in school, right.

10                    So when it comes to -- and it's unfortunate,  
11           but it's just the way it is. Things go up.  
12           Groceries go up. We have to pay it. Your  
13           mortgage, your insurance, and everybody that owns  
14           in Florida know that your insurance goes up. But  
15           when -- in the time of need, I like to see those  
16           trucks rolling down my street getting my lights  
17           back on.

18                    And we know we are in south Florida, so we are  
19           going to see a lot of hurricanes. Thank God a lot  
20           of them missing us, but they do happen. And in  
21           order for us to have better service, they have to  
22           be able to put fuel in the trucks. They have to be  
23           able to pay those guys to get out there and get to  
24           us. There is no way that we can expect, in 2025,  
25           to be the same thing we paid in 2018. It's not

1 going to happen.

2 So I support FPL. I hope everything works  
3 out, and I appreciate the reliability. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

5 MR. TRIERWEILER: Next we will have Muhammad  
6 Abdullah, Douglas Young and then Mimi Donly.

7 PUBLIC COMMENT

8 MR. ABDULLAH: Good morning, everyone. I was  
9 asked to speak from the Greater Pompano Chamber,  
10 all right. Previously, I was an educator here in  
11 Broward in Palm Beach for the past 22 years. I  
12 have a small family, two kids, wife. My daughter  
13 is 13. My son is 10.

14 One case that I do remember is a hurricane a  
15 couple years ago where power was out for about --  
16 for us, it was out for about two days, all right.  
17 We had others, their power was out for about two  
18 weeks. And at that point, I am a teacher in the  
19 classroom, and I have students coming to me with no  
20 power, no food, you know what I am saying? So it  
21 was hard for me to get into my curriculum the way I  
22 should have. They are dealing with real life  
23 situations.

24 So all I am saying now is, as I was asked to  
25 come here and speak, I am not for or against,

1 right, but I feel like there was a need to have  
2 more trucks on the road to prevent situations like  
3 that.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

6 MR. LUEBKEMANN: Quick follow-up.

7 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Sir, do you mind a quick  
8 follow-up?

9 Go ahead.

10 MR. LUEBKEMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 Hi. Just a quick follow-up. You said that  
12 Pompano Chamber asked you to come speak?

13 MR. ABDULLAH: Correct.

14 MR. LUEBKEMANN: Do you know if FPL has any  
15 board members on the Pompano -- Greater Pompano  
16 Chamber of Commerce?

17 MR. ABDULLAH: Do I know? I believe they  
18 might. Yes.

19 MR. LUEBKEMANN: And are you aware that the  
20 Chamber gets money from FPL?

21 MR. ABDULLAH: No.

22 MR. LUEBKEMANN: Okay. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Next up is Douglas Young.

24 Sir, you are recognized when you are ready.

25 PUBLIC COMMENT

1           MR. YOUNG: Good morning, Mr. Chairman,  
2           Commissioners, and everyone else in this room.

3           What I have to say is positive things.  
4           Positive things about conservation.

5           I spend most of my time on conservation  
6           projects in Broward County, and for at least a  
7           decade, FPL has been supporting a lot of the  
8           efforts that I am involved with, particularly one  
9           of them is coastal dune restoration. We are trying  
10          to reestablish the dune system along the shoreline,  
11          the 23 miles of Broward County, because it's the  
12          first line of defense against storm surge, sea  
13          level rise and extreme weather events.

14          So a few hundred -- hundreds of FPL employee  
15          volunteers have been involved every year, our main  
16          activity to reestablish the dunes with some plants.  
17          The main plant is actually called sea oats. There  
18          is other plants.

19          Year after year, at least half of the  
20          volunteers that are involved are, I use the term  
21          repeat offenders. They are actually very helpful  
22          coming back to help to us. So my experience with  
23          FPL has to do with these community activities. We  
24          know that what I do, and what how I interact with  
25          them on these conservation projects, is just one

1 example of a lot of community efforts that FPL is  
2 involved with. Probably everyone in this room is  
3 experienced, or is aware of some type of effort  
4 that FPL has been involved with in the community.  
5 So to wrap it up quickly, I support FPL.

6 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Great. Thank you.

7 Walt, that was Mr. Young.

8 MR. TRIERWEILER: Mimi Donly. Chairman, we  
9 have Senator Perry Thurston, a former state  
10 Senator, who asked to speak today, and he has an  
11 engagement right after this, if we can indulge  
12 that.

13 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Senator, I saw you walking  
14 out and then I recognized you.

15 PUBLIC COMMENT

16 SENATOR THURSTON: I wasn't going to leave,  
17 but I was just -- I was trying to speak with  
18 counsel.

19 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Sure.

20 SENATOR THURSTON: I am Perry Thurston. I am  
21 a lifelong resident of Broward County. I have  
22 lived here, as the gentleman indicated, I am the  
23 past state Senator for the district as well, and I  
24 wanted to speak not so much on the rate issue,  
25 because I don't deal with that.

1           We are -- our office is known for constituent  
2 services, so the young lady that came up and talked  
3 about nursing home and assisted living facilities,  
4 I was informed of FPL about this, but I wasn't  
5 asked to speak on their behalf. I told them I  
6 wanted to come and speak, but I wanted to speak  
7 about the services that they provide.

8           These people need to make sure that their  
9 electric is on, and when we have hurricanes -- and  
10 I have lived through, being here for 64 years, I  
11 have lived through some hurricanes, and I harass  
12 them, because I come from a community who believes  
13 that they are being neglected anyway when their  
14 power is out, they see other people power comes on.  
15 So I call them, and then that was part of the job  
16 that I would make sure that my staff and people in  
17 the community knew to call our office if there is a  
18 problem.

19           So I can imagine that you probably know that  
20 there is probably nobody in my community who is for  
21 increasing fees. I can just -- I haven't taken a  
22 poll on that. They don't call me about that, but I  
23 know that to be the case.

24           But in terms of the service, in terms of  
25 response time, if I am harassing them about coming

1 out and making sure that these assisted living  
2 facilities, these nursing homes, that their power  
3 is turned back on as quick as possible, and  
4 including in the community. If they are doing  
5 those things, I just want to let you know that they  
6 are, and they are actually responding.

7 I was in the Legislature for 18 years, going  
8 back to -- and I termed out in 2022. I don't deal  
9 with all the constituents anymore, but when I was  
10 there, they did respond to me. They would come  
11 out, they would address the issue, and they would  
12 go into the communities, sometimes not so popular  
13 communities, and make sure that the power was  
14 turned back on. So that's what I come to testify  
15 to you with regards to FPL.

16 And if you have any questions, I would be more  
17 than happy to answer.

18 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Senator, it's great to see  
19 you, it's been a long time.

20 SENATOR THURSTON: It's been a while.

21 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: I had a case overlapping,  
22 but thank you for coming here to share your  
23 comments.

24 SENATOR THURSTON: Have a good day.

25 MR. TRIERWEILER: Mimi Donly. Not here. We

1 have a Mimi.

2 Basil Bernard, Joe Acri and then Daniel Lam,  
3 please.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

5 MR. BERNARD: Good morning. Basil Bernard.

6 I own a small business in south Florida, and  
7 just for full disclosure.

8 FPL is probably one of the most reliable  
9 entities that we have around. I have friends that  
10 work for FPL, and I have seen them in the middle of  
11 a hurricane have to leave because it's important  
12 that they go take care of customers. So it's a  
13 very reliable company, I think.

14 Here today, I have been significantly impacted  
15 by electricity just in here alone. Look at the  
16 lights that are here. It's something that we rely  
17 on and need desperately, and the level of comfort  
18 that we have become accustomed to here in the  
19 states. It takes a lot to have the power.

20 The traffic lights that we saw when we were  
21 coming in here, the streetlights, if you fixed your  
22 breakfast this morning, you used that as well. If  
23 you travel our globe to other places like myself,  
24 you know what it is to have rolling blackouts,  
25 scheduled blackouts, and so on. And when there is

1 no or not enough planning, it can be very  
2 significant and very uncomfortable. But that's the  
3 way things roll, and we want a better situation, so  
4 I think that FPL has given us quite reliable  
5 service, and we appreciate it, and a modest  
6 increase might be in order.

7 Relating to crews, as I mentioned before, in  
8 inclement weather, we know that before we call  
9 them, they are already mobilized because of their  
10 equipment, telling them that, you know, you have  
11 increment power.

12 Electric bills, they are going to be a thing  
13 for us, but there is going to be a need for  
14 increasing our adding capacity to ensure that we  
15 can take advantage of new technologies.

16 AI, we already talked about AI, the computing  
17 power and electricity that's going to require,  
18 that's going to have to be put in before they can  
19 even charge for it. There is some ways in which we  
20 have to compromise.

21 Population increase, we know that that's  
22 coming. Fortunately, we are seeing more people in  
23 town.

24 More qualified techs. I think that's  
25 necessary. And the data centers, as I mentioned

1           before, for Florida -- occur. We need to make sure  
2           that we have electricity necessary to get out in  
3           front of it. So again, a modest increase for us to  
4           enjoy the quality of life that we have might be  
5           necessary.

6                   CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

7                                   PUBLIC COMMENT

8                   MR. ACRI: Good morning. My name is Joe Acri.  
9           I am the senior facility manager for Trividia  
10          Health, a manufacturing facility up in Ft.  
11          Lauderdale, with 400 employees, 300,000 square feet  
12          of buildings. We manufacturer Scripps meters for  
13          diabetic testing. We supply Walgreens, Walmart,  
14          CVS, all the big chains all over the world. We  
15          co-brand our products for the companies.

16                   Over the years, we have increased in growth,  
17          and FPL has been our partner during this expansion.  
18          We have, several years ago, we had an electric  
19          billion of \$1 million year, we are now down to  
20          \$800,000 a year with partnership with FPL in order  
21          to reduce our lighting. We changed our  
22          fluorescents to LEDs. We upgraded equipment, more  
23          efficient equipment, and they have been a great  
24          partner in helping us reduce our electric  
25          consumption.

1           They have strengthened the service coming into  
2           the buildings, and I do say they have been a great  
3           partner areas have improved. I have been with the  
4           company for 23 years, so I have seen it all with  
5           them, and we have grown with them over the years.

6           That's all I have to say.

7           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

8           MR. ACRI: Thank you.

9           MR. TRIERWEILER: All right. Next we will  
10          hear from Daniel Lam, and then Rob Kornahrens and  
11          Laurie Stumpo.

12          Daniel Lam? Rob?

13                                   PUBLIC COMMENT

14          MR. KORNAHRENS: Great pronunciation of my  
15          name. Very rare like that.

16          Rob Kornahrens. I moved out here in 1982. I  
17          worked for a roofing company through high school  
18          and college, and take over the branch here, and  
19          then I started my own company in 1983, one pickup  
20          truck. Got into solar in 2006, been working for  
21          FPL over four decades on improving solar connection  
22          to power, so...

23          I can tell you as a contractor, when even back  
24          in the early days, we used to reroof substations,  
25          everything they did before the word resilience was

1           around was to construct resiliency. The same with  
2           their substations they were building was happening  
3           there, and when we needed them to get out there and  
4           do it. And even today, the same thing. They build  
5           resiliency, make sure they are building, and they  
6           are very competitive. We have to compete on every  
7           project. So they are very efficient in how they  
8           look at roofs. They look at roofs for 30 years. A  
9           lot of companies are 15 to 20. They look at 30,  
10          you know why? It's only 10 or 20 percent more when  
11          you doing it. So they look at ROIs when look at  
12          construction.

13                   And talking about construction, we see the  
14                   same thing in solar. We are the largest commercial  
15                   solar and roofing company in the state. Have about  
16                   750 employees in seven locations.

17                   Me personally, the house, my house, I have  
18                   been in Broward County the whole time since '82.  
19                   They have been great hooking up the solar.

20                   When we had Hurricane Andrew in 1992, we had  
21                   trucks come to Broward County, and it was a mess  
22                   for weeks and weeks without power. When you don't  
23                   have power, gas and everything down there. Today  
24                   we work every hurricane, obviously, in the state.  
25                   We only stay in the state. We are not storm

1 chasers. We only take care of our clients, all big  
2 clients, but we have to get there and get them up.  
3 And what we see today with the resiliency they  
4 built is much quicker time for our clients and us  
5 getting back the people back to work.

6 I was fortunate to be -- tour the smart meter  
7 diacoustic center that they built, and, you know,  
8 one of the few people that they had visit, they  
9 know we are in the emergency business as well, and  
10 it's truly amazing to see the technology that they  
11 have invested in, and the people they have invested  
12 in. I am, like, wow, this is cool stuff.

13 I talked to their people, and their people are  
14 strong. They are committed to making things better  
15 every day. I mean, I just love the technology,  
16 coming to technology, I am on SolarNow. So when I  
17 look at these things, I look at the people, and  
18 then I say, how are you going to replace those  
19 people? And me, I know that we are paying 30  
20 percent more in materials for pre-pandemic, and  
21 probably 40 percent for people, and we have 70  
22 positions open.

23 So they need to run a business. They need to  
24 pay their people. They need to do quality work.  
25 Any one of them, a 20-year roof, and then you got

1 to go back and get more. They are smart, and they  
2 know how to build very competitive, honest people.  
3 Hard working people.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

6 MR. TRIERWEILER: Next we will hear from  
7 Laurie Stumpo, and then Jonnine Morejon and Monifa  
8 Hall, please.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT

10 MS. STUMPO: Good morning. Good morning,  
11 everybody. My name is Laurie Stumpo. I am here  
12 today as a resident of Broward County who supports  
13 the proposed rate increase by Florida Power &  
14 Light.

15 I am a little nervous speaking publicly, but I  
16 felt strong about being here. Please bear with me  
17 as I am going to read my statement.

18 I have been a Broward County resident since  
19 1968. I can remember at an early age walking to  
20 the FPL location on Hollywood Boulevard and 24th  
21 Avenue. This is where my mom would make her  
22 monthly payments. The ladies behind the counter  
23 were always so kind, and there was never a time  
24 that I didn't leave without a lollipop or two.

25 Fast forward to being an adult resident,

1 homeowner and small business owner in Broward  
2 County. I have always experienced excellent  
3 customer service when being assisted by a  
4 representative of FPL. The FPL app is amazing.  
5 You can start and stop service, make payments with  
6 ease, and during a stormy season, we would often  
7 lose power but always kept informed through the app  
8 to know when the power will be restored, and my  
9 experience has always been pretty accurate. I can  
10 also tell you there is no better vision than a  
11 convoy of FPL trucks coming down your street after  
12 a hurricane.

13 Okay. So I know no one likes to see their  
14 utility bills rise. Neither do I. I believe this  
15 rate increase is crucial for the future of our  
16 community. Let me explain why.

17 As a -- as the Florida population continues to  
18 grow rapidly, the demand for electricity has  
19 significantly increased, putting added pressure on  
20 energy infrastructure. The increase that FPL is  
21 requesting is aimed at upgrading power lines,  
22 transformers and retaining reliable service. If  
23 not improved, it could lead to more frequent  
24 outages, system failures, especially during  
25 hurricane season. As you have seen in past storms,

1 reliability is not just a convenience. It's a  
2 necessity.

3 Second, this rate increase would help fund  
4 FPL's investments in clean energy. The increase  
5 will enable FPL to continue to make smart  
6 investments on the grid to benefit us, the  
7 consumer, and to power our fast growing state. In  
8 reviewing their press release dated 2/28/25, FPL  
9 President stated, no other utility in the U.S.  
10 provides better combination of reliability,  
11 resiliency and low bills for FPL -- than FPL.

12 As a resident of Broward County, that makes me  
13 feel good, that we have a company like FPL  
14 providing our electricity. I would rather support  
15 this rate increase now to ensure more reliable,  
16 sustainable and affordable energy in the future for  
17 everyone in our community. The truth is this is an  
18 investment in our future, not just a short-term  
19 increase in rates. So let's think about the bigger  
20 picture, a cleaner, more resilient energy grid,  
21 long -- lower long-term cost and a more sustainable  
22 future for Broward County.

23 That's why I stand behind the rate increase,  
24 and I hope you will consider supporting it as well.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

2 MR. TRIERWEILER: Jonnine Morejon, followed by  
3 Monifa Hall and Phillip Disque.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

5 MS. MOREJON: Good morning. I am here as a  
6 citizen to support the rate increase that FPL is  
7 propositioning to impose upon us. I have lived in  
8 Florida my entire life. I am a native of Broward  
9 County. I have seen much improvement that FPL has  
10 done in our communities. I went from seeing miles  
11 and miles and miles of wooden telephone poles which  
12 have now been transformed into concrete. I have  
13 seen all of the power lines that used to be above  
14 us in our homes and in our skies and now  
15 underground. Thank you to FPL.

16 As we move forward with AI and with electric  
17 cars, as a former speaker said, the capacity to be  
18 able to have all of those electric chargers within  
19 our home and be able to withstand that.

20 I think it's very important to continue to  
21 improve the solar power infrastructure. The  
22 research, all of this, it costs money, and  
23 increases, unfortunately, are something that have  
24 to be put into play in order to support this.

25 Also, I will tell you that I have lived

1 through every hurricane since 1963 in the state of  
2 Florida. What they have done and supported us, I  
3 understand that that's, you know, under a different  
4 type of umbrella, but I support FPL, as I do our  
5 first responders. There is first responders,  
6 police, fire and FPL. They are a first responder  
7 as well.

8 Thank you for your time.

9 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT

11 MS. HALL: Good morning, Commissioners. My  
12 name is Monifa Hall. I was asked to speak here  
13 from somebody at FPL because they know I have a  
14 positive opinion of FPL, but I am not here on  
15 behalf of any business entity or larger group. I  
16 am speaking as one of the little guys, as one of  
17 the previous speakers stated.

18 I am a Florida native. I have lived in south  
19 Florida for the majority of my whole life, and have  
20 always had really positive experience with Florida  
21 Power & Light. I have rarely experienced any  
22 outages. And instances where my family or I have  
23 experienced outages, FPL's responsiveness has been  
24 rapid and well served.

25 I have recently become a homeowner in the last

1 five years, and living as a single homeowner in  
2 south Florida can be -- it's -- obviously it can be  
3 very expensive, especially in the last few years,  
4 and I feel a lot of security knowing that FPL is  
5 servicing my home and my neighborhood. I get text  
6 alerts whenever there is expected outages in my  
7 neighborhood. I get monthly reports on my energy  
8 usage and ways to conserve more energy in my home.

9 From 2015 until 2018, I lived in Washington,  
10 DC, and the utility bill that I received there was  
11 oppressive to say the least, so returning back to  
12 south Florida in 2018, and having my lower energy  
13 costs down here with FPL since then has been just a  
14 godsend.

15 So I am fully in favor of Florida Power &  
16 Light's rate increase that they are requesting  
17 right now, and I think -- you know, of course, I  
18 would not like -- I would like to keep money in my  
19 pocket and not have an increase to my bills, but if  
20 FPL needs the extra funds to support the grid,  
21 increasing the grid, you know, maintaining their  
22 level of customer service that I have experienced  
23 for the last 32 years, then I am in full support of  
24 that.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

2 MR. TRIERWEILER: All right. After we hear  
3 from Phillip Disque, we have Bob Swindell and Heiko  
4 Dobrikow.

5 PUBLIC COMMENT

6 MR. DISQUE: Good morning.

7 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Good morning.

8 MR. DISQUE: Now, first of all, for a  
9 disclaimer, I am not an employee, I have never been  
10 an employee, I am not a member of director of a  
11 commission that has anybody with FPL. I was asked  
12 here to come as a favor due to my experience with  
13 FPL.

14 First of all, I'm probably, at least at this  
15 point, the longest customer of FPL. I was born  
16 here in 1952 and have never left. So my original  
17 was FPL Group, and I would say that overall, I am  
18 in favor of their increase request.

19 The reasons why: First of all, in just  
20 looking at our state, there are two other -- we  
21 have two other basically comparisons, one TECO  
22 coming out of Tampa, and the second is Duke Power.  
23 Under the numbers that I was able to look at, it  
24 appears that we are -- they are 18 percent higher  
25 than us at TECO, and 33 percent higher. So when

1 the Office of Public Counsel talks about reducing  
2 the rate, I don't know what happened to theirs as  
3 to why their rates are so much higher.

4 If you look at FPL, they are covering a much  
5 larger swath of Florida. They have got more area  
6 that is out there. They are constrained by Broward  
7 and Dade County in terms of what they have to pack  
8 into it, and you look at towards the north, above  
9 Palm Beach, you have got miles and miles of open  
10 area. So they are covering a lot.

11 There was a comment made by the young man over  
12 here about our bills are the tenth highest. What  
13 would those bills be if we didn't have air  
14 conditioning? When I grew up down here, we did not  
15 have air conditioning. Until that came in, I also  
16 blamed the fact that if we didn't have air  
17 conditioning, we probably wouldn't have population  
18 growth. Which would have been a positive.

19 But if you take a look, you are looking --  
20 what are you looking at? You should be looking at  
21 what are they charging per kilowatt hour? They are  
22 charging the lowest rates pretty much in the  
23 country, over 30 plus percent lower than anybody  
24 else. How people choose to use the electric is up  
25 to them, whether they have air conditioners, the

1 vast amount of electricity used by computers,  
2 things like that, are choices that they are making.  
3 The question is, what is it that you have the  
4 option to buy at?

5 The second thing is when you look at the rate  
6 increases, you got to look at the company. This  
7 company, NextEra, has \$130 billion of debt. They  
8 had two rate issuance that came out in the last  
9 year, both -- one was 5.7 percent, the next at 5.8.  
10 Those continue to increase.

11 There was a study done, and this by a  
12 consortium of electric companies in South Carolina  
13 for the period from 2019 to 2024. Transformers  
14 were up 87 percent in cost. Pole-mounted  
15 transformers were up 55 percent. Wooden cross arms  
16 were up 121 percent. Primary cable up 70 percent.

17 So for them to be looking at these numbers in  
18 terms of it is -- appears to be a no-brainer. If  
19 this company does not maintain financial stability,  
20 the cost of borrowing that \$130 billion would  
21 escalate significantly. Who is going to pay that  
22 cost? Everybody here, so the bills will continue  
23 to go up even more.

24 So -- and just for -- when we compare this  
25 company to the others -- I am in red. I will be

1 one more statement.

2 The Federal Reserve of St. Louis did an  
3 analysis as to the reducer price index. What does  
4 it cost a utility for residential to produce.  
5 Form -- in the last year the increase was 14  
6 percent -- 13.52 percent. So for them to look at a  
7 two-percent increase to cover the cost of labor,  
8 material and things, is not unreasonable, and I am  
9 in support of the request.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

12 PUBLIC COMMENT

13 MR. SWINDELL: Good morning, Chairman La Rosa  
14 and Commissioners. Thank you for your service. I  
15 am sure these rate hearings are grueling for you  
16 and your support staff as well, so I appreciate  
17 having you in Broward County.

18 Hopefully you were able to share our joy in  
19 the Florida Panthers winning the Eastern Conference  
20 last night. We are very proud of our team who  
21 plays in Broward County.

22 I realize, having grown up in Florida, that I  
23 have really become spoiled. When I flip a switch  
24 or I push a button, that's when there is certainty  
25 that the power will be there. As a kid growing up

1 in the 1970s, that was not always the case. The  
2 company was often referred to as Florida Flicker  
3 and Flash. The reliability was not there. How  
4 things have changed.

5 In 2024, FPL had its best ever reliability  
6 rating. For the 17th time in the last 18 years --  
7 I pulled some of this information from the National  
8 Rate Filing in doing my research -- FPL's average  
9 time for power outage duration was the shortest  
10 among Florida investor-owned utilities.

11 Reliability and accountability are important  
12 qualities I look for in business and in life. As  
13 an energy consumer and an employer in the business  
14 of attracting new businesses to south Florida,  
15 confidence in access reliable electricity at a  
16 reasonable cost is my work and quality of life.  
17 Over the decades, I have witnessed FPL rapidly  
18 respond to major storms, and I have seen them  
19 invest improvements to the grid and new technology  
20 that benefits me as a customer.

21 Most FPL customers are not aware of the role  
22 that FPL plays in the economic development in  
23 Broward County. Some of the new companies and jobs  
24 from the Greater Ft. Lauderdale Alliance announced  
25 this year would not have happened without the help

1 of economic development team at FPL. My role is, I  
2 am the CEO of the Greater Florida Alliance. We are  
3 an economic development organization in Broward  
4 County. I am also proud to share that FPL's  
5 support in economic development in Broward includes  
6 service on the Alliance board. Two of their  
7 executives served as past chairs of my  
8 organization, and they provide private investment  
9 for our public/private organization.

10 As I deal with business leaders who are  
11 interested in moving to or expanding their  
12 operations in Florida, one of the factors that  
13 attract and retain businesses is the availability  
14 of reliable power at competitive prices. The  
15 gentleman from Trividia, we have worked with  
16 Trividia over the years, a local company that's  
17 grown, they are an example.

18 As a customer, I care about how the proposal  
19 affects my own bill and of others. Speaking to  
20 customers in other states, they confirmed that our  
21 monthly FPL bill is well below what they pay. From  
22 my research, and the research my team has done,  
23 electricity rates we pay are below the national  
24 average even with the proposed increase. The value  
25 that FPL provides today is a result of decades of

1 smart investments, long-term planning and  
2 innovation.

3 In closing, it is important to acknowledge  
4 that FPL is in a business that requires a  
5 reasonable return on its investments. In a world  
6 of competitive financial markets, FPL's ability to  
7 attract capital is dependent on its financial  
8 health. No one wants to pay more money, but at the  
9 end of the day, FPL has a proven track record of  
10 investing today to ensure that we enjoy the same  
11 rate value tomorrow. FPL has earned my trust.

12 I encourage the members of the Public Service  
13 Commission to grant the rate increase application  
14 to ensure that FPL has the resources to maintain  
15 and improve the delivery of electric services for  
16 the benefit of the Florida customers and the  
17 state's economy.

18 Thank you all very much.

19 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

20 PUBLIC COMMENT

21 MR. DOBRIKOW: Good morning, Commissioners.  
22 And, wow, you pronounced my name perfectly. I am  
23 very impressed actually by that. My name is Heiko  
24 Dobrikow. I am the Executive Vice-President of the  
25 Las Olas Company as the general manager of

1 Riverside Hotel, we have 431 rooms. We barely keep  
2 the lights on for our guests -- money, and I hope  
3 they are -- as well.

4 I have lived in Florida since 1990, and I  
5 remember Opal, Wilma and other hurricanes, and the  
6 recovery from FPL has been just second to none over  
7 the years. When I take a look at how long we had  
8 to wait during Opal in order to get electric back,  
9 or even Wilma, as that was in 2005, three weeks to  
10 get electric back, was just uneasy. When you take  
11 a look how FPL has evolved over the time, it's just  
12 absolutely amazing. I agree with one of the  
13 previous speaker said, when the trucks line up, I  
14 feel good.

15 Looking at my electric bill for the hotel of  
16 over 500,000 a year, that's a lot of money that we  
17 are spending, but it's certainly worthwhile,  
18 because the relationship that we have with FPL is  
19 more so of a partnership.

20 Over the years, we had to change our business  
21 because the kilowatt hours were just running very  
22 fast through our system. So we used our account  
23 executive in order to get educated, what can we do  
24 in order to reduce the amount of kilowatt hours  
25 that we are using. We were educated. They are the

1 experts. They taught us how to reduce the  
2 consumption of power during peak periods in order  
3 not to have the higher rates that we get during  
4 those periods. They educated us that the window  
5 shakers that we had in our building from 1936 are  
6 not very efficient. You should switch over to mini  
7 splits, which we eventually did.

8 And then when we looked at our chiller system  
9 and needed some advice as well, what should we do  
10 in order to be more efficient. They helped us out,  
11 because sometimes you don't know what you don't  
12 know. You talk to a vendor and think they are  
13 going to tell you everything, but at the end of the  
14 day, you need to build a relationship with FPL and  
15 with their account executive.

16 I can tell you how my experience has been  
17 absolutely phenomenal, but also, full disclosure, I  
18 served on several boards, whether it's the Chamber  
19 of Commerce, the Chamber of Commerce in Ft.  
20 Lauderdale or the Greater Ft. Lauderdale Alliance,  
21 and FPL has been board members as well, so I wanted  
22 to just mention that.

23 I support the rate increase. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

25 MR. TRIERWEILER: After we hear from Stanley

1 Thornton, and then Garth Dottin, we have Perry  
2 Thurston.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT

4 MR. THORNTON: I actually wrote mine down on a  
5 piece of paper.

6 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Sure. Great.

7 MR. THORNTON: Hello. My name is Stanley  
8 Thornton. I am here to speak on the quality of  
9 service that I receive from Florida Power & Light.  
10 And full disclosure, I am a retired FPL employee,  
11 and I have been retired now for almost four years.

12 Presently, I live in Broward Florida, and I  
13 know the importance of reliable electricity. I am  
14 pleased with the quality of service that FPL give  
15 to me. I have lived in Broward County 25 years,  
16 south Florida for over 50. During the pandemic  
17 shutdown, I was working from home, and it was  
18 obviously very, very important that we get good  
19 reliable service from FPL. And I got to tell you  
20 from working at home, we experienced a very good  
21 experience for our electricity from FPL.

22 Additionally, I have seen positive affects  
23 from FPL already on the system. The other day,  
24 Pembroke Pines had a storm that went through there,  
25 something I had never seen. I think we I have two

1 generators. I never used them. The other day when  
2 that storm came through, we got hit, but we did not  
3 lose power at all. And basically having worked at  
4 FPL and knowing the money they spend to harden the  
5 system, it was a testament to how that money is  
6 being spent in a very positive way, and I really,  
7 really appreciate that, not having to use my  
8 generator.

9 Also, as a retiree on a fixed income, the cost  
10 of electricity is very important, and no one wants  
11 to see their power cost increase, especially us on  
12 fixed incomes. I understand investment is  
13 necessary in order for FPL to allow us to enjoy the  
14 quality of service that we enjoy. Implementations  
15 in smart technologies and maintenance required to  
16 keep up the infrastructure of the system, I know  
17 that's necessary. Just like everything else, very  
18 expensive. And as an employee -- former employee,  
19 a retiree on a fixed income, I don't want to see it  
20 go up, but I need to be -- we need to be realistic  
21 about it. Things going to go up.

22 So I hope FPL keep the rates as low as  
23 possible, keep the cost of service down, but I do  
24 understand the need to increase the rates as we go  
25 forward, everything is being increased.

1 Overall, I feel good about the electric  
2 service that I receive, satisfied with the  
3 responses and the customer service that I am  
4 getting whenever any issues arise. And that's  
5 about it. I just want to speak on behalf of FPL as  
6 a private customer, having seen FPL from the inside  
7 and now from the outside.

8 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your  
9 testimony.

10 MR. TRIERWEILER: Garth, Garth Dottin?

11 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Senator Thurston has  
12 already spoken, so just skip over him.

13 MR. TRIERWEILER: Okay.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT

15 mr. dottin: Good morning. I want to thank  
16 you so much for giving us the opportunity to speak.  
17 I am a local resident, just a short walk away from  
18 here, so I am thankful you have the meeting very  
19 close. I am a dad and also a minister here in the  
20 community.

21 I must admit that I don't like rate increases  
22 at all, but if it's for a specific reason, specific  
23 service that I know is reliable, then I understand  
24 it. I have to know, I think someone shared  
25 earlier, I have to know that I am getting what I am

1           paying for. So I support this rate increase  
2           because I can see efforts of what I am paying for.

3           My son said to me -- my son, he is 11 years  
4           old -- said to me, if you want to check how  
5           efficient and effective FPL is, type it in Google  
6           at least let AI tell you. And I learned that 59  
7           percent if -- FPL is actually better, more reliable  
8           than 59 percent of the statewide -- or systemwide,  
9           and the national average, so that's some statistics  
10          that I thought was amazing.

11          Why I am not opposed to this rate increase is  
12          because I recognize that rate increases happen no  
13          matter who you are, no matter where you are,  
14          it's going to happen one way or another. And I  
15          only hope, because you asked -- who is the  
16          representative for FPL? Okay. I only hope that  
17          you would consider, especially for this area,  
18          putting the cables underground, underground, that  
19          way it will help. Since we have moved here, we  
20          recognize that that is a need so that you don't  
21          have, when the storms come, an issue with that.

22          I am going to be a little faster. What I see  
23          from FPL is a consistency in service. When the  
24          floods hit this area just a few blocks from here,  
25          we didn't lose service at all. That I thought was

1           impressive. The water was getting higher, my kids'  
2           anxiety at that time, other services were lost, but  
3           FPL kept consistent.

4           The pumps failed us. Trash pickup failed us.  
5           The city maintenance failed us. But FPL has been  
6           consistent. We were able to cook. We were able to  
7           see what's going on, and my children were not  
8           anxious through the time when it was very, very  
9           dangerous. We had to walk through water just down  
10          the street, but yet we were able to have our lights  
11          on. That spoke very highly to me.

12          I have called our city -- just to give you an  
13          example. For three-and-a-half years, I have called  
14          our city just to fix some sidewalks in front of our  
15          house. They have yet to get the job done, and I am  
16          seeing FPL gets the job done. That's why I am not  
17          opposed to it.

18          The guy came to our house just a few months  
19          ago. Actually, I didn't know he was coming. And  
20          he said to my wife that he is here to paint and  
21          ensure that the corrosion that happens with the  
22          meters doesn't happen. He is going to slow the  
23          process. That spoke highly to me, that FPL would  
24          go to that great distance to make sure they  
25          maintain the items that they have.



1 Hollywood all my life, whole 59 years, but I come  
2 because I am the eyes and ears of my people. When  
3 there is storms, we -- I get phone calls, I guess  
4 probably because of my former work, everybody think  
5 I know everything, but I get phone calls to say,  
6 hey, who should we call? And there are power lines  
7 down, in my community there is a lot of alleyways,  
8 and I take care of the forgotten alleyways. The  
9 power lines go down and we have to call, FPL come  
10 faster than the speed of light. And they are there  
11 to fix the poles, the lines in the alleyways, and I  
12 can't say anything but great things about FPL. You  
13 get what you pay for. It's something that we need.

14 I take pleasure when there is a storm all of  
15 the trucks that I see parade up and down my  
16 community, and I know that we are not that --  
17 community, so I am just here to say I support FPL,  
18 and I think they do a great job in my community.

19 Years ago, we would be out of power weeks and  
20 weeks, and now we increase -- decreased that from  
21 weeks to days, and I have nothing but great things  
22 for FPL.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

25 MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you.

1 Gregg Goldstein?

2 Susan Steinhauser.

3 PUBLIC COMMENT

4 MS. STEINHAUSER: Hi. Good morning. Thank  
5 you for being here. I have these preprepared  
6 comments, but after listening to prior testimony,  
7 this may sound a little bit disjointed because I  
8 would like to address some of what I already heard.

9 So first of all, Ms. Passidomo Smith, thank  
10 you for pointing out that not everybody can be  
11 here. I am fortunate, I was able to take off this  
12 morning from work. I am in a position where I can  
13 be here. I believe that in-person testimony,  
14 whether or not you guys think it's stronger, I feel  
15 it's stronger that we take the time to be here. So  
16 hopefully other people who can't be here will  
17 provide written testimony.

18 Secondly, for anybody who spoke before me and  
19 will speak after me that says they have no problem  
20 paying the increase, I hope they appreciate the  
21 fact that they are not in the situation that the  
22 first speaker is in, where he has to choose between  
23 paying his electric bill and paying for his  
24 medication, because whether or not we all  
25 understand this, the fact is those number -- the

1 number of those people in that situation is going  
2 to go up. It's already going up. It's going to  
3 continue to go up.

4 And as far as my colleague Doug, who spoke  
5 about helping with resilience. Well, there is a  
6 reason why FPL has to do that, it's because their  
7 practices have contributed to, and, yes, I believe,  
8 to climate change and warming oceans, which has  
9 contributed to hurricanes.

10 So that hurricane surcharge that has already  
11 been put on our bills, and the 2021 increase that  
12 you guys have approved four years ago, that is  
13 already on our backs due to FPL's practices of how  
14 they are providing our energy.

15 And, yes, I have, with the exception of a few  
16 flickering streetlights in my neighborhood, and a  
17 few times that the medical building, which I work  
18 in, lost power, you can check the time, they had to  
19 help people down the staircase. I am not here to  
20 debate the quality of the service. It's been good,  
21 and thank you for that. Thank you to FPL. I  
22 question whether or not this rate increase is  
23 actually required to provide those service.

24 So I am not quite sure what I am most upset  
25 about, back to my prepared comments, that FPL has

1 the nerve to charge an increase when they have seen  
2 record profits over the years, that FPL continues  
3 to mislead the public by calling methane natural  
4 gas, which is not natural at all, and claiming it's  
5 a clean fuel when it's more potent greenhouse gas  
6 than carbon dioxide. We have heard about reducing  
7 carbon emissions, how about reducing methane  
8 emissions by not continuing to frack for natural  
9 gas and burn that, which is what's putting us in  
10 this position in the first place. And the storm  
11 surge that I already had mentioned, that's been put  
12 on our backs that we have to pay up front, the  
13 issues we have with hurricanes, and then have to  
14 pay a surcharge on top of that.

15 And by the way, that natural gas that we talk  
16 about, and that hardening of the infrastructure,  
17 that's not the infrastructure that should be  
18 hardened. The price of natural gas has dropped,  
19 yet we are here discussing a rate increase. It  
20 makes no sense.

21 Please do the right thing. I know you can't  
22 bring down the price of gas, but if you approve  
23 this rate increase, the prices will go you higher  
24 because the supermarkets will need to pass their  
25 higher expense down to us.

1           Thank you for your time. I have to go back to  
2           work.

3           MR. TRIERWEILER: Andrew Duffell, and after we  
4           hear from Andrew, we will be taking a break and we  
5           will come back with Scott -- I can't read that  
6           writing. I am sorry -- and Andrea Becker. But  
7           first, Andrew Duffell, if he is here, and if not.

8           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yeah, Mr. Duffell is not  
9           here. Let's go ahead and let's take a seven-minute  
10          break. Try to be back here by 11:25.

11          Thank you.

12          (Brief recess.)

13          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: All right. If we can take  
14          our seats.

15          All right. So it is almost 11:30. I am  
16          trying not to limit the testimony of the customers,  
17          but do recognize that we have a growing list that  
18          continues to grow, and with time constraints from  
19          both the facility and where we have to go next, I  
20          want to limit the testimony down to two minutes.

21          Our light system will not work as it was, so  
22          what we will do is we will have an audio, a buzzer  
23          that will go off if you can. Please try to round  
24          off your comments at that point. I will try not to  
25          interrupt you in the middle of your thought, but

1 please be respectful. Thank you, everyone. This  
2 has been a very professional meeting. Very much  
3 appreciate you guys hosting us that way, and we  
4 will, of course, continue to do so. So thank you,  
5 guys, and look forward to the second half of what  
6 we got in store.

7 Go ahead, Walt.

8 MR. TRIERWEILER: All right. Sir, you are on.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT

10 MR. LEWIS: Thank you. Greetings. My name is  
11 Scott Lewis, and I am from nearby Pembroke Pines,  
12 and a member of -- Florida, a community of  
13 Americans over 60 working together on climate  
14 democracy. And I am also the Director of the  
15 Florida Climate Educators Network.

16 So I want to give my thanks to our PSC  
17 Commissioners for the service to help determine  
18 energy systems for Florida to best serve our  
19 population.

20 I also want to let you know that I have  
21 neighbors who work for FPL, and I appreciate the  
22 company provides us a reliable source of  
23 electricity despite numerous storms.

24 I want to share two concerns with our PSC  
25 members today, and I hope -- the first concern is

1 about the possible economic hardship impacts of  
2 rate increases, and the second concern is for the  
3 work we must do to rapidly transition to a clean  
4 energy future for all Floridians, as Susan  
5 Steinhauser was making that point.

6 First, with respect to FPL's rate case. I  
7 worry there are many Floridians, and particularly  
8 seniors, who may have trouble paying utility bill  
9 increases and may face heat health dangers if they  
10 cannot afford power to keep cool. About 13 percent  
11 of our population in Florida is below the poverty  
12 line. Since FPL serves about 12 million  
13 Floridians, this means that roughly one-and-a-half  
14 million people are at the poverty line in FPL's  
15 service area, including about 250,000 elderly  
16 Floridians. Any rate increases will likely lead to  
17 members of this group making painful choices to pay  
18 their electric bills, as you heard earlier today.  
19 And this is especially problematic with the current  
20 federal budget proposal, which may eliminate  
21 funding that has helped many people pay such bills.

22 It also is critical that you take into  
23 consideration the serious economic challenges that  
24 many Floridians face when responding to FPL's  
25 request.



1 MS. BECKER: Hi. I am Andrea Becker. Thank  
2 you for allowing me to share my experience with  
3 FPL.

4 I have been a resident of Pompano Beach for  
5 the last almost seven years, and a few years ago, I  
6 realized that I was missing a streetlight on my  
7 street Robbins Roda in Pompano Beach. I learned  
8 from my other neighbors that potentially we used to  
9 have one there but it may have come down in a storm  
10 and never was returned back, but I reached out to  
11 FPL and they promptly responded and replaced my  
12 streetlight, so I was very pleased with that, and I  
13 wanted to share my experience.

14 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Excellent. Thank you.

15 MS. BECKER: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Ms. Brooks, you are  
17 recognized.

18 PUBLIC COMMENT

19 MS. BROOKS: Good morning. My name is Ruthie  
20 Brooks, and I am a resident of Broward County for  
21 the past 30 years. I was asked to speak by FPL,  
22 and I do serve on a board with an FPL employee.

23 So my experience with FPL has always been  
24 positive. I have lived in several other states,  
25 and I do believe our rates are fair here. I think

1           it's easy to say a big corporation shouldn't get a  
2           rate increase, but prices go up for everything.  
3           Expenses go you for every business. And I think a  
4           fair rate increase should be granted to them.

5           I have also had an experience through my  
6           business with FPL recently that was extremely  
7           positive. I had a customer whose FPL bill was in  
8           the name of her deceased brother for the last three  
9           years, and when I needed help, I contacted FPL and  
10          they helped us get the situation resolved, paid the  
11          bill and canceled the service.

12          Thank you.

13          CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

14          MR. TRIERWEILER: After we hear from Raymer  
15          Maguire, we would like to hear from Katherine  
16          O'Fallon and Leslie Salvino.

17                                   PUBLIC COMMENT

18          MR. MAGUIRE: Hi there. My name is Raymer  
19          Macguire. I am a pompano Beach resident and FPL  
20          customer and employee with a nonprofit of the CLEO  
21          Institute, dedicated to teaching about the impacts  
22          and causes of climate change.

23          FPL has a pretty sweet deal. They are a  
24          monopoly. I don't get to choose another power  
25          company. I can only choose FPL. They get the vast

1 majority, about 80 percent of their power, from  
2 burning methane gas. Methane gas releases -- it's  
3 a greenhouse gas, it's like putting a blanket over  
4 to the earth. It traps in more heat. Greenhouse  
5 gases occur naturally. We are adding more and more  
6 greenhouse gases, which is trapping in more and  
7 more heat. Well, what do we do when it gets hotter  
8 and hotter in Florida and setting heat records, we  
9 use more power.

10 It would be one thing if Florida Power & Light  
11 was making significant investments to improve  
12 energy efficiency. But in 2023, they were ranked  
13 52nd out of the 53 largest utility companies in the  
14 country for providing energy efficiency programming  
15 to customers.

16 So they are burning a bunch of gas. Making  
17 climate change worse. They are not doing a good  
18 job at making -- helping customers be more  
19 efficient, and so what is this doing? It's just  
20 fueling more profits.

21 The kicker is that as they are making climate  
22 change worse by being the largest emitter of  
23 greenhouse gases in the state, it's not like their  
24 property insurance bill goes up the way my property  
25 insurance bill goes up, because when a storm comes

1           and damages infrastructure, they get to increase  
2           our bills again to rebuild it, and when they  
3           rebuild it, they get a guaranteed double digit rate  
4           of return on that infrastructure.

5           I beg y'all to hold FPL, FPL accountable.  
6           They provide us power. They keep the lights on,  
7           they deserve to get paid, but they are taking  
8           advantage of us. And y'all are the only people  
9           that have the power to stand up and to say no.  
10          Please. Thank you.

11           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

12           MR. TRIERWEILER: Katherine.

13                           PUBLIC COMMENT

14           MS. O'FALLON: Hi. Thank you. My name is  
15           Katherine O'Fallon. I am the Executive Director  
16           for the Marine Research Hub. It's a nonprofit. It  
17           is supported by FPL, but I am also speaking on  
18           behalf as a resident living in Broward County.

19           I have had amazing reliable service from  
20           Broward County, but I think one of the things --  
21           sorry, with FPL. In my community, one of the  
22           things that I have to think of to look forward to  
23           is future-proofing Broward County and the state of  
24           Florida and funding what needs to go into that is  
25           needed for us to have a reliable resilient

1 infrastructure that we are going to be sustainable  
2 against as we are going to be dealing with more  
3 impacts to our environment and to our community as  
4 the storms intensify, and FPL putting forward more  
5 money into being more innovative so that we can  
6 find solutions that are going to find alternatives  
7 sources for energy so that we can deal with some of  
8 the climate impacts that we are dealing with.

9 So with that, the funding that needs to go  
10 towards this increase in rate, if it is being put  
11 towards, you know, all of this reliability that we  
12 have and our services that we appreciate right now,  
13 but also putting it forward to future-proof our  
14 community to be protected against the future of  
15 climate impacts and our strain on our grid for all  
16 of the uses that we have.

17 Someone earlier mentioned the use of AI to  
18 find this information. Well, that is going to  
19 require more energy, and we are going to have to  
20 find solutions to make sure that we are attacking  
21 all of those issues for our community.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

24 MR. TRIERWEILER: After we hear from Leslie  
25 Salvino, we would like to hear from Greg Brewton

1 and Debbie Danto.

2 No Leslie?

3 Greg Brewton.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

5 MR. BREWTON: Good morning. I am Greg  
6 Brewton, retired, resident of Broward County for  
7 seven years. More importantly, retired City of Ft.  
8 Lauderdale employee. Retired from the Department  
9 of Sustainable Development, and the department  
10 encompasses planning on building services, planning  
11 and zoning, and the community redevelopment.

12 Through my years with the City, I had an  
13 opportunity to work closely with FPL and provide  
14 services to our residents in the city limits of Ft.  
15 Lauderdale. It's been extremely pleasant. They  
16 have always been very responsive, and being able to  
17 serve our community, and especially those  
18 communities within our city that are underserved in  
19 certain areas, they found a way to respond to the  
20 needs of those constituents, those residents within  
21 that community, and very proud to say that I am --  
22 I have a very longstanding relationship, good  
23 relationship with FPL.

24 As a retired person living in my home, when  
25 hurricanes hit, the last hurricane that hit

1 impacted tremendously in my area where I live and  
2 FPL was out there immediately. They were able to  
3 restore service within hours. And anytime there  
4 has ever been an issue with any of our service, the  
5 situations, they have been very responsive, and I  
6 just want to say ditto to the ones that spoke  
7 earlier with regards to their favorable responses  
8 to FPL, and I also agree.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

11 MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you. After we hear  
12 from Debbie Danto, would like to hear from Jose  
13 Crespo and Gerald Angeli.

14 PUBLIC COMMENT

15 MS. DANTO: Good morning. My name is Debbie  
16 Danto, Danto Builders. We have a small general  
17 construction firm, and I am here on behalf of and  
18 in support of FPL.

19 As a small business and completing  
20 construction for a lot of other small businesses,  
21 FPL can be a very critical plan in the construction  
22 process. If FPL doesn't come at that point when  
23 they are needed, then cash flow stops. It is very  
24 critical, and a hardship to our clients, as well as  
25 our subs if that does happen.

1           There have been situations where I have had to  
2 reach out, and fortunately I am involved with the  
3 community and have gotten to know FPL  
4 representatives through my community involvement  
5 and wonderful community partnership, and so I have  
6 been able to reach out to the representatives.

7           One of the most notable experiences I have had  
8 is during COVID. And during COVID, supplies were  
9 low, especially electrical supplies. In this case,  
10 meter cans. The meter cans didn't come after a  
11 year. They had been ordered a year ago. We were  
12 able to search the internet, Ebay in particular,  
13 find some meter cans, but they weren't approved  
14 meter cans. So I was able to reach out to FPL, and  
15 they helped me with the process of getting those  
16 implemented and installed, received, approved and  
17 installed. So in that case, it was very critical.

18           And there has been other situations where it's  
19 getting power to the property, or upgrading the  
20 property, and if it doesn't take place, it's as a  
21 matter of life or death for some of the businesses  
22 of our small business owners and their families.

23           So also on a personal note, we had a truck  
24 come through our community where my husband and I  
25 live, and the truck was too tall, ripped out wires,

1 and FPL was right there as it was truly a life  
2 safety issue, and I am very grateful for their  
3 service, responsiveness and helping assess  
4 businesses as a residential community.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

7 MR. TRIERWEILER: Jose.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT

9 MR. CRESPO: Good afternoon, Chairman and  
10 Commissioners. I am Jose Crespo. I serve as the  
11 Vice-President of Quality Operations at Sintavia,  
12 an advanced manufacturing company based right here  
13 in Hollywood. For reference, Sintavia specializes  
14 in metal additive manufacturing and design for  
15 critical aerospace and defense applications.

16 Sintavia's advanced manufacturing facility  
17 operates upwards of 25 industrial metal printers,  
18 18 -- machines, and 47 industrial furnaces for  
19 manufacturing of complex aerospace components. All  
20 of which rely on clean and reliable energy from  
21 FPL.

22 During a recent extension of our facility, FPL  
23 played a key role in supporting our increased power  
24 needs with the timely responsive service. Their  
25 team worked closely with ours, attending weekly

1 project meetings to ensure structure upgrades  
2 allowing us to scale our property without  
3 exception.

4 South Florida's industrial manufacturing base  
5 is growing fast and we need a lot of power to  
6 support it. The companies like Sintavia, where we  
7 operate highly sensitive equipment and run  
8 around-the-clock operations, consistent and  
9 reliable power is essential. We can't have -- any  
10 interruptions in service directly impacts our  
11 national security supply chain, Department of  
12 Defense programs that we support, and the quality  
13 of service.

14 So we need a strong, reliable electrical power  
15 service, so we strongly support FPL's continued  
16 investment in infrastructure and grid resilience.  
17 These improvements are not just about keeping the  
18 lights on, they are about powering innovations,  
19 supporting manufacturing and industrial waste, and  
20 ensuring that companies like Sintavia can continue  
21 to grow, compete and deliver critical technologies  
22 that matter, so I encourage you to approve this  
23 request.

24 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

25 MR. TRIERWEILER: Next up is Gerald Angeli

1 followed by Laura Tellez and Amish Pitel.

2 PUBLIC COMMENT

3 MR. ANGELI: Good morning. My name is Gerald.  
4 Angeli. I am a consumer of residential power from  
5 Florida Power & Light. I have lived in south  
6 Florida for 25 years. And during that time, before  
7 I retired, I had the responsibility for the power  
8 two different companies that I worked for.

9 Over the period of time, my measure of  
10 providing business reliability, availability of the  
11 service they provide, of course, the price they  
12 charge for it and their customer service. And I  
13 can tell you from my own manufacturing background  
14 that the genetic of FPL is continuous improvement.  
15 And over that period of time, that reliability,  
16 that availability of service and that customer  
17 service has improved.

18 I also know over that period of time, the  
19 other thing that's changed, power from Florida has  
20 been continuously a receiver of state population.  
21 It's growing, and that places demand on FPL to  
22 manage that growth and provide power. Without  
23 that, to me, consistent --

24 The power demands are also seen as the --  
25 power demands are also increasing because of AI.

1           And one thing that's not been mentioned this  
2           morning is that they are also responsibility --  
3           they also have a responsibility to infrastructure  
4           for the vulnerability of the power grid.

5           So as far as I am concerned, they are a very  
6           well managed company. I look to you to make sure  
7           that the numbers jive, and that the request that  
8           they are that making is warranted for a rate  
9           increase, which I am sure it is. And so with that,  
10          I support FPL's --

11           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

12           MR. TRIERWEILER: Laura.

13                           PUBLIC COMMENT

14           MS. TELLEZ: I am Laura Tellez, FPL  
15           customer -- pointing out that most of our people  
16           most affected by this rate case are not able to  
17           come to these hearings -- at a time when Floridians  
18           are experiencing rising inflation and high costs,  
19           we must protect them from these rate hikes that  
20           result in additional financial hardship, FPL  
21           demands and 11.5 return on equity, higher than the  
22           national average of 9.6 percent. Having profits at  
23           customers' expense, particularly our most  
24           vulnerable residents, this is 24 percent higher  
25           than the national return on equity average.

1           FPL is valued at \$170 billion, and is not  
2 struggling. FPL is proposing the largest rate  
3 increase in U.S. history, nearly 10 billion over  
4 four years. Some communities are still recovering  
5 from devastating hurricanes, housing crisis, rising  
6 insurance and more. The PSC plays a huge part in  
7 safeguarding Floridians by ensuring critical energy  
8 decisions, facilitating transparent costs in rate  
9 cases that -- policies promotes fairness and  
10 accountability. The PSC is supposed to ensure  
11 safe, reliable and affordable utility service.  
12 Instead, the PSC has repeatedly approved FPL rate  
13 hikes with minimum oversight, causing the Florida  
14 Supreme Court, in 2023, to criticize the PSC for  
15 its poor oversight during to the FPL 2021 rate hike  
16 approval. In order to protect our communities,  
17 this has to stop.

18           Over five million households across Florida  
19 will be forced to pay hundreds more each year if  
20 this hike is approved. Families, seniors and small  
21 businesses already struggling with high costs will  
22 be pushed even closer to the financial crisis, will  
23 pay hundreds of dollars more each year on their  
24 electric bills. In the past five years, FPL  
25 customers have already seen bills rise by over \$400

1           annually. These rate increases cause lower income  
2           families and individuals having to choose between  
3           essential life-saving needs such as medications,  
4           food, housing and electricity bills, these  
5           Floridians face higher extreme heat. Affordable  
6           services are essential to a dignified life and  
7           should come before excessive and outrageous  
8           corporate profit.

9           Thank you.

10           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

11           MR. TRIERWEILER: After we hear from Amish  
12           Pitel, we would like to hear from Alissa Schafer  
13           and Berbeth Foster, please.

14           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: And after Mr. Pitel, we  
15           will take a -- we will have to do a quick swearing  
16           in of what I am going to call new speakers, those  
17           speakers that arrived here after the initial  
18           swearing in process.

19           So, Mr. Pitel, you are recognized.

20                                   PUBLIC COMMENT

21           MR. PITEL: Hi. My name Amish Pitel. I was  
22           born and raised in Florida. I have always trusted  
23           FPL power my home for my family, now the EV home  
24           program, and trust FPL to power my electric  
25           vehicle.



1 to -- and all of you Commissioners know this very  
2 well, because you are on these dockets. When it  
3 comes to things like storm recovery charges, fuel  
4 charges, reliability that are separate additional  
5 dockets, cost recovery mechanisms in place to make  
6 sure companies like FPL have what they need to  
7 continue to give reliable service, and we are  
8 thankful for that. I like to have lights turn on  
9 when I flip that switch as well.

10 But for most of us, I think we see this huge  
11 historic \$9 billion plus money grab as something  
12 that is just a corporate money grab, exactly that,  
13 at the cost of our monthly bills going up even  
14 more.

15 For most of us, when we go to work, miss  
16 deadlines, make promises and then do something  
17 different with our customers, we cannot expect to  
18 get a bonus or a pay raise. So my question to the  
19 Commission today is why does FPL seem to expect  
20 they have a different set of rules? I have a  
21 couple of examples of ways FPL has let us down.

22 Number one, FPL has been polluting our water  
23 supply and threatening our drinking water for many,  
24 many years at the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant.  
25 They were given a deadline. FPL has said that they

1 are going to miss that deadline, and our drinking  
2 water continues to be at risk.

3 Secondly, FPL's parent company, NextEra, has  
4 stated that they have a goal of zero emissions by  
5 2045. However, in its recent corporate earning  
6 calls, NextEra said that they intend to build,  
7 quote, gigawatts of new fossil fuel gas generation.  
8 Most people would consider that to be fairly  
9 disingenuous. Some would consider it straight up  
10 lying.

11 So with just these two examples, I am sitting  
12 here and I am kind of like, you know, forget zero  
13 emissions. I literally have zero faith that FPL  
14 will do the right thing with our money, so why  
15 should we give them more?

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

18 MR. TRIERWEILER: Berbeth Foster.

19 PUBLIC COMMENT

20 MS. FOSTER: Good morning -- afternoon. I am  
21 not sure what it is right now. My name is Berbeth  
22 Foster. I am a member of Florida Rising, but I am  
23 also a longtime resident. I have lived in Broward  
24 County my whole entire life, therefore, been an FPL  
25 customer my entire life. And I have to say that

1 the service is fine. I don't have anything to  
2 compare it to, because as everyone has said, FPL is  
3 a monopoly in Broward County and in many parts of  
4 the state, so I don't have a choice in where I get  
5 my service from.

6 I have experience working with the low-income  
7 seniors and disabled persons from work at Broward  
8 County. I can tell you that for seniors and  
9 persons on a fixed income, this rate hike, although  
10 many of the privileged people who came this morning  
11 and said this is all final, this is great. I am  
12 about great service. I am willing to pay the rate  
13 hike, that difference in that percentage absolutely  
14 makes a difference for low-income people, for  
15 communities of color, for disabled folks, for the  
16 low-income veterans. So this is not something  
17 simple. This is not something that we should take  
18 lightly.

19 One of our astute community members said  
20 earlier that, as a monopoly, I don't see why we  
21 should be guaranteeing a double digit profit level  
22 to FPL, and I absolutely agree with that statement.

23 I just want to remind the Commissioners, I am  
24 sure you are aware, but the standard for you all  
25 for approving this is that this should be fair, it



1 region for customers, FPL has supported by  
2 providing reliable and stable infrastructure.

3 Dependable energy services is absolutely  
4 critical, not just from the residents, but for the  
5 future growth for our region. We have seen  
6 firsthand how FPL's responsiveness and long-term  
7 planning help keep our projects on schedule and on  
8 your communities received, especially in storm  
9 season. We must maintain and modernize Florida's  
10 power grid while sustaining investments. As  
11 discussed, their commitment to provide service and  
12 fewer outages. That's a benefit to developers like  
13 us, and most importantly, for families and the  
14 homes that they have. For those reasons, we  
15 support FPL's continued efforts to strengthen our  
16 infrastructure that so many of us rely on every  
17 day.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. TRIERWEILER: Stephan.

20 PUBLIC COMMENT

21 MR. RAMDOHR: Good morning, Commissioners. My  
22 name is Stephan Ramdohr, and I am a residential FPL  
23 customer. I am just here to ask you to reject  
24 FPL's rate request. I feel actually positive  
25 things where you can choose your electricity

1 provider, and if I am not happy with my electricity  
2 provider I can just switch to another company that  
3 is cheaper and I can go to that company, and it's  
4 easy to switch and do it on-line. Unfortunately,  
5 that's not how this is here. This is a monopoly.

6 So this is the largest right rate hike in U.S.  
7 history, and as part of that request, we also see a  
8 rate of profit to be above the national average.  
9 So this means that an increasing share of money  
10 being paid by customers actually it's not going to  
11 invest in operations, instead of it's going to  
12 shareholder profits. So for me, that means just  
13 the regular working class person that 400, like,  
14 more in electricity bill costs, for example, that  
15 definitely would make a difference. And we, as  
16 consumers and Floridians, should not be left  
17 holding the bag so that FPL, in turn, can give more  
18 and more money to their shareholders.

19 This is an increase that's imposed on all of  
20 us, and because of the monopoly, its consumers  
21 don't have a choice, so I ask you to please reject  
22 FPL's cost increase.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

25 MR. TRIERWEILER: Sandra, followed by

1 Anastasia Robinson and Jackie Vernon Thompson.

2 Sandra?

3 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Sandra?

4 MR. TRIERWEILER: Anastacia Robinson?

5 PUBLIC COMMENT

6 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you. Hi. I am Anastacia  
7 Robinson, and I am here representing myself,  
8 Florida Rising, I am an employee, and I am a  
9 Floridan born and raised in south Florida.

10 I want to thank the Florida Public Service  
11 Commission for having us today. We also want to  
12 make sure that we are thinking about everyone and  
13 not just the businesses. Yes, we do understand  
14 that increasing the bills is necessary at times,  
15 but this is not the time. We did receive an  
16 increase in 2023, 2024, and -- but right now is  
17 really not the time. We have homeowners dealing  
18 with their insurance, their taxes, yes.

19 To -- I ditto Alissa, I ditto Berbeth. It's  
20 just not the time for it. Even if it -- I would  
21 propose a suggestion. If you have to do a rate  
22 increase, it's not just on profit, it's because of  
23 equipment, it's because of redoing the area, it's  
24 putting it underground, then try to do it in a way  
25 where it is fair, where it's not \$10 billion, to be



1           And understanding that FPL has been there for  
2 my business consistently, sometimes we lose power  
3 like right before my class, and it gives me  
4 anxiety, but it always comes back on, and I  
5 appreciate that.

6           Now, I don't support increasing the price  
7 because of the less fortunate, the disabled and, of  
8 course, those who have a fixed income. I  
9 understand that there may be a necessity for an  
10 increase. What I am not seeing, FPL, is for you  
11 all to consider the vulnerable citizens, perhaps  
12 have rebates, or something, to supplement the  
13 change because we have to consider those who are  
14 less fortunate or unable to have an increase in  
15 their income.

16           I must tell you that recently I traveled to  
17 St. Maarten just for leisure, and their lights went  
18 out for days consistently, and I kind of got  
19 spoiled. I was, like, appalled. How do you go  
20 without electricity? And typical person coming  
21 from America going to the islands and experiencing  
22 this. However, it made me appreciate FPL even  
23 more. My only concern is those who are unable to  
24 pay and have to decipher if they are going to pay  
25 for their medication or power. Both are needed.

1 So please consider some sort of supplement.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

4 MR. TRIERWEILER: Next up is Monica Salcedo,  
5 Nicole Heran and Lawrence Martin.

6 Do we have Monica?

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Monica Charleston?

8 MR. TRIERWEILER: No, Monica Salcedo.

9 Nicole Heran?

10 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Nicole Heran?

11 MR. TRIERWEILER: Lawrence Martin, and then  
12 followed by Martin Hoffer and Sweet Smith Stone.

13 PUBLIC COMMENT

14 MR. MARTIN: I follow Sweet. Lawrence Martin.  
15 I am a former City Commissioner for the City of  
16 Lauderdale 2020-2024. I am up here, I am going to  
17 tag on to what Senator Harry Thurston talked about,  
18 when he talked about marginalized communities in  
19 Broward County, because you know Lauderdale, we are  
20 pretty of the center of Broward County, population  
21 about 75, 76,000 people. And for years, we felt  
22 left behind and not serviced by not just corporate,  
23 but sometimes internal services.

24 As an elected official, it was one of my  
25 strongest moments in reaching out to FPL where we

1 had some specific problems in particular  
2 neighborhoods. And I can honestly say they stepped  
3 up to the plate without resolve, committing to and  
4 holding to monthly meetings until we got the issue  
5 resolved, which took about eight months.

6 And I know currently, they are involved with  
7 the City, because I came out of office in November  
8 of '24, in looking at all the infrastructure and  
9 how we can upgrade services for that community.  
10 Because we run dead center of Broward County, you  
11 know, my standing was, what happens in Lauderdale  
12 pretty much affects north, south, east and west.  
13 And I am proud to say that FPL did come to the  
14 table, stepped up and did their job.

15 Now, as any other elected past, present or  
16 future, no one is going to come and tell you  
17 increase prices on their community. That would be  
18 political suicide. What I am saying is, when there  
19 are situations where you can see where your money  
20 is going, and you can see where the service has  
21 done is positive to the recipients, that has to  
22 have some consideration.

23 Now, as the young lady that just spoke before  
24 me, I wish there would be an opportunity where FPL  
25 would be able to make some kind of concessions for

1 those that are marginalized. As we know, like the  
2 old national politics, but there is so many  
3 uncertainties right now as far as grant programs  
4 and things that a lot of people depend on, but the  
5 timing will never be right, but right now, it  
6 probably couldn't be worse.

7 So I just ask the Commission, like other  
8 people have said, make sure the increases are  
9 necessary and that you are doing the right thing.  
10 And I just say again, FPL has stepped up in my  
11 community during my length of period to do the  
12 right thing.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

15 MR. TRIERWEILER: Martin Hoffer, Sweet Smith  
16 Stone, and then Christine T. Jones.

17 PUBLIC COMMENT

18 MR. HOFFER: Good afternoon. The fact what's  
19 going on today with FPL pretty much credit-wise,  
20 and that's why the PSC should be elected and not  
21 appointed. The voters have failed politicians and  
22 lobbyists.

23 Thank you very much.

24 MR. TRIERWEILER: Sweet Smith Stone? That's  
25 unfortunate, I really wanted to see Sweet.

1 Christine T. Jones.

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: You do have the contact  
3 information?

4 MR. TRIERWEILER: Thank you.

5 Dr. Joann Kitchen Simms?

6 Andrea Mercado, followed by Zieman and Viola  
7 Watson.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT

9 MS. MERCADO: Good afternoon. My name is  
10 Andrea Mercado. I am the President of the Climate  
11 and Clean Energy Equity Fund. Today I actually  
12 want to read a statement from my daughter. Her and  
13 her friends couldn't be here today because the  
14 hearing is taking place during school hours and  
15 working hours.

16 My daughter Sarah is the President of her  
17 school class, and Vice-President for District VI  
18 Miami, Broward and Monroe Counties.

19 Me and my friends are extremely concerned  
20 about climate change. It's ridiculous that Florida  
21 Power & Light is powering our homes by burning  
22 methane in the state where the sun shines over 300  
23 days a year. They are contributing to greenhouse  
24 gas, one of the worst greenhouse gas contributors  
25 in our state, and making hurricanes worse. I

1 appreciate having my lights on. I appreciate the  
2 work that FPL workers do to keep us safe, but I  
3 cannot support this rate case.

4 I want to thank you for your time and  
5 listening to everyday working people today, in  
6 addition to the business owners and people on FPL's  
7 payroll.

8 Thank you.

9 PUBLIC COMMENT

10 MR. ZIEMAN: My name is Leo Zieman, a former  
11 employee at Florida Power & Light for 43-and-a-half  
12 years and retired for over a year. And I can tell  
13 you since the first time I started working with the  
14 company in 1980, vast amounts of improvements have  
15 happened in these years.

16 For example, we have less than half the number  
17 of employees per customers than we did when I first  
18 started.

19 Secondly, we have added so much more  
20 technology for, as an example, the electronic  
21 metering, so that way I do not have to call the  
22 company and figure out my power is out, they  
23 already know about it.

24 It also helps, as an employee for storm  
25 restoration, the hardening of the poles, the

1 automated switching, the overhead to underground  
2 lateral conversions that are going on, these are  
3 all improvements for service.

4 Personally, from my standpoint, I am very glad  
5 that the Public Service Commission is here and that  
6 Florida Power & Light is a controlled, regulated  
7 monopoly. I have been involved with a lot of  
8 organizations in other states where they had  
9 deregulated environments, and electric bills for  
10 the residential is much higher than what it is here  
11 in the state of Florida. So I really hope we stay  
12 with a regulated environment.

13 As far as the people who have hardship, from  
14 what I understand, there is assistance, aids for  
15 electric service, and may be able to help some of  
16 those that are in real dire need.

17 As far as greenhouse, I would also like to  
18 address the fact that, for example, Port Everglades  
19 Plant was converted to natural gas, and when it  
20 did, back about five years ago, the same amount of  
21 electricity with 30 percent less fuel. And also at  
22 that time, it was the old plant, remember we had  
23 smokestacks. There is no more smoke from that  
24 plant area.

25 So I really would be in favor of the increase.

1 I think it's still going on, it needs improvement.  
2 When I left the company, the management was  
3 committed to constantly improving the system, and I  
4 think it's necessary.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. TRIERWEILER: Okay. Next we have Viola  
7 Watson, followed by Aleem Ghany and Luna Plaza.

8 PUBLIC COMMENT

9 MS. WATSON: Yes. Good afternoon. My name is  
10 Viola Watson, and thank you for the privilege of  
11 being able to speak. I have lived in south Florida  
12 since 1978. I am a business owner and also a  
13 property owner.

14 I am not so much opposed to the increase  
15 provided that it provides a better way, I think  
16 with technology, I think we should do more solar.  
17 I also believe that we should also put more  
18 infrastructure going underground, because in the  
19 long run, I would really believe that would pay  
20 off, Broward has more hurricanes and other weather  
21 related issues. I have lived in the city here in  
22 Punta Blanca. I have also lived in the City of  
23 Viera. I have spoken to some of the residents of  
24 these areas, and they are very happy with the  
25 changes that you have made there. So I think we



1           So as a utility is provider, one utility  
2           provider, I do support it, but smaller increment.  
3           And thank you very much.

4           CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

5                           PUBLIC COMMENT

6           MS. PLAZA: So, hi. My name is Luna. I am  
7           here on behalf of my mother. She's a single,  
8           hard-working independent woman, and she's been an  
9           FPL customer longer than I have been alive, and  
10          she's continually -- village.

11          Every month I watch my mom stress over her  
12          bills. When I come back home from college, she's  
13          already keeping the AC at uncomfortable  
14          temperatures just to afford her current FPL bill.  
15          She has no choice but to rely on energy as she  
16          works from home. And with homeowners insurance,  
17          food and gas prices all going up, as we all know,  
18          she's just making ends meet.

19          I wonder what would happen when she retires,  
20          how can she live comfortably and survive. This  
21          isn't just about money. We have no choice in our  
22          energy provider, and FPL has a monopoly, and they  
23          are forcing us to pay primarily -- with transformer  
24          heat and atmospheric -- outside. FPL is creating a  
25          vicious cycle, profiting from these new processes,

1 driving up our energy needs and our cost, and then  
2 they ask us to pay even more in rate base.

3 As a young student studying at the University  
4 of Miami, I am watching my future be marketed for  
5 FPL's profits. As my mother stresses to pay  
6 today's bills, I face a future of where electricity  
7 will be more expensive and the climate will be even  
8 more dangerous. As extreme heat increases in  
9 Florida, my generation is going to face the  
10 consequences of higher energy costs, more dangerous  
11 heatwaves and stronger hurricanes. We are the ones  
12 who will inherit the climate disaster that entities  
13 like FPL's dependence on the fossil fuels is  
14 creating today.

15 This proposed rate hike is not just a number  
16 on paper, and while I share my mom's story, I know  
17 she's not alone. It is families like ours being  
18 pushed further into financial hardship and  
19 affordability crisis while FPL's profits continue  
20 to grow. So I am asking you to reject this rate  
21 increase, single parents, seniors and working  
22 families in Hollywood and across Florida cannot the  
23 rising cost. We need affordable energy, not force  
24 families to choose between basic necessities.  
25 Please don't approve this rate hike.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. TRIERWEILER: Scott Martin, followed by  
3 Monica Charleston and Bertisha Combs.

4 PUBLIC COMMENT

5 MR. MARTIN: Good afternoon. I am going to be  
6 probably one of the only people that will come up  
7 and say FPL has -- they called me and said, how  
8 would you like your money back? And I said -- you  
9 know, I thought it was -- I thought they were -- I  
10 thought it was a prank call, but apparently they  
11 did research and found out that I was owed for  
12 \$300, and they said, would you -- would you --  
13 where do you want us to send the check?

14 And I have never had an issue with FPL. Ever.  
15 And I understand that nobody likes a rate hike.  
16 Nobody does. But it's rather small, and I am not  
17 one of the privileged, but I am privileged to know  
18 that when I get home, I can turn on my lights, and  
19 I know the cable is going to be working. I can  
20 watch ESPN, and -- but again, they are -- they are  
21 the only company that has ever called me and said,  
22 how do you want your money back? And that's --  
23 that's pretty much my stance on it, you know.

24 And I am not an employee. Never was an  
25 employee. I have no family members that ever

1 worked for FPL. I am just somebody that  
2 appreciates really good service, and that's really  
3 all I have to say.

4 Thank you. And I am sorry I keep doing that.

5 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

6 All right. Sir, do you mind answering a quick  
7 question?

8 Go ahead.

9 MR. LUEBKEMANN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10 I just want to make sure I got your testimony  
11 right. Are you referring to FPL's \$9.8 billion  
12 rate increase when you say it's rather small?

13 MR. MARSHALL: I think -- I think when it --  
14 when it's all broken down, and I am not one of the  
15 privileged ones, okay. I don't make a ton of  
16 money. But to me, it's more important to make sure  
17 that I get my service and, after a hurricane, I  
18 know that my service is going to be turned on  
19 rather quickly. And I don't care how many places I  
20 have live, the minute that power goes out, and you  
21 can swear that you know exactly what to do if the  
22 power goes out, you have to live in, you know, when  
23 that power goes out and you are without air  
24 conditioning, yeah, I do -- I do think that it's  
25 worth it. That's just my opinion. Clearly, you

1 have yours.

2 MR. LUEBKEMANN: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you, Mr. Martin.

4 MR. TRIERWEILER: Monica. And after Monica,  
5 we have Bertisha Combs and Juan -- Juan.

6 PUBLIC COMMENT

7 MS. CHARLESTON: Good afternoon, everyone --

8 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, ma'am. I can't  
9 hear you.

10 MS. CHARLESTON: Hi, okay. I'm sorry. Is  
11 this better?

12 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Yeah. Adjust the  
13 microphone if you need to.

14 MS. CHARLESTON: Okay. Deep breaths.

15 Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Monica  
16 Charleston, and while I have an AARP shirt on, I am  
17 going to -- so I am actually here on my behalf and  
18 my personal experience, just to let you know that.

19 I live down in Homestead. I moved here in  
20 2021. I can count on my one hand the time that I  
21 have been able to afford to have the air  
22 conditioner on in my house. I don't turn it on.  
23 Circumstances, in 2021, the only time I turned my  
24 air conditioner on in my house when my cousins came  
25 down from Philly, and I was so embarrassed, and he

1 told me to turn it on, but the switch I -- you  
2 know, like, oh, my God, okay, whatever, like I  
3 didn't know, but I knew that I had not turned it on  
4 because I can't afford it.

5 Recently -- there is some construction that's  
6 going on in my neighborhood, recently I had my  
7 lowest moment and I have property, I live down on  
8 the lake, so I used to go -- to have air flow in my  
9 house to have some type of, you know, breeze and  
10 relief. Recently, in the past month -- I am  
11 sorry -- there has been rodents coming in my house  
12 on the table or in my house.

13 I spoke to my landlord about it. And the  
14 response I got from the landlord was like, oh, you  
15 are a free spirit, you like to leave your doors and  
16 windows open, and not knowing that the doors and  
17 windows are open is the reason I can't afford air  
18 conditioner in my house.

19 I had to report this to the housing authority,  
20 and now I have to move because there is a rodent  
21 infestation in my house because I have the doors  
22 and windows open so that I can get a breeze.

23 I ask y'all to consider people such as myself,  
24 who live on a fixed income, who are disabled, and  
25 who desperately need, you know, to restrain or to



1 the process of working on my roof, and me and my  
2 partner had to go into our savings account in order  
3 to make sure we spent \$10,000 to replace the roof,  
4 and I think the FPL should be able to do the same  
5 thing. They have been making billions of dollars  
6 over the years, they should go into their savings  
7 account, or ask their shareholders to take a little  
8 less money in order to not raise the rates that  
9 they are trying to.

10 And one last thing I want to point out.  
11 People are acting like FPL is doing us a favor by  
12 giving us lights. We are paying for the service,  
13 so we expect to have a certain amount of reliance,  
14 or have our lights on when we flip the switch.

15 And a few years ago, after Hurricane Wilma, I  
16 remember when FPL was not as responsive, and the  
17 City of Hollywood, not too far from here, there was  
18 a nursing home that they were not able to get to,  
19 and they had residents that died because of that.  
20 So just keep that in mind the next time FPL says  
21 that they are always coming to save us right after  
22 the hurricanes, people do lose their lives in the  
23 state of Florida.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. TRIERWEILER: Juan Saavedra.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

MR. SAAVEDRA: Sorry for my handwriting.  
Chairman, Commissioners, good afternoon. I have  
been here for a few.

My name is Juan Saavedra. I am the Secretary  
of the Hispanic Heritage Chamber of Commerce. We  
are the only Hispanic chamber in Broward County.  
We were established a couple of years ago, and one  
of the reasons why I am here to support a modest  
increase for FPL is because they are a part of the  
community. They have been supporting us since day  
one. They are part of the Broward community as  
well. Also the company, like they are there for  
us, and they really are a part of the community and  
FPL is involved, as resident a user of service  
for -- I am from Mexico, so when I prefer to  
services that we have currently in Florida, and,  
you know, no issues at all, not opposed to it, but  
what I am trying to say is that -- and only the  
nations. That's all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

MR. TRIERWEILER: Joy Williams.

PUBLIC COMMENT

MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, Commissioners.  
Thank you for being here. I am here to talk about

1 two things.

2 First of all, I have some very serious health  
3 problems, and I am down here, and it's really a  
4 problem for me to live without the air conditioning  
5 being on. And I want to say that, at first -- and  
6 I live in a retirement community. At first, it  
7 took a long time for the power to come back on.  
8 But one thing FPL has done is they have improved,  
9 and it is really a life and death issue for me.  
10 And I am appreciative of that, because -- and I  
11 also like the fact that during the time of power is  
12 off, somebody texts me and says when it's going to  
13 come back on, so that I know that I can live for  
14 the next few hours without it, or I need to go  
15 somewhere where there is air conditioning. But I  
16 like that about that.

17 And actually, those are the two things I have  
18 to say. FPL has improved, and it's really  
19 important to me because it's my life involved. And  
20 the other thing that I have to say is that I am  
21 glad for the communication as to when it is going  
22 to come back on.

23 Thank you very much.

24 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your  
25 testimony.

1 MR. TRIERWEILER: Chairman, I think that we  
2 only have three more, but I don't believe that they  
3 were sworn.

4 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Okay. I can swear them in  
5 as they approach.

6 MR. TRIERWEILER: Dodie Keith, please, and  
7 then Edgar Lafaurie and Joseph Ruidiaz -- no.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ruidiaz.

9 MR. TRIERWEILER: Ruidiaz. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Ma'am, do you mind taking a  
11 quick oath? Raise your right hand.

12 (Whereupon, Chairman La Rosa administered the  
13 oath.)

14 MS. KEITH: Yes, sir.

15 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

16 PUBLIC COMMENT

17 MS. KEITH: Good afternoon. Dobie Keith. I  
18 appreciate y'all letting me hop in here in the  
19 meeting.

20 I am born and raised here, south Florida my  
21 whole life here. I actually own and engineering  
22 related business here that I have five offices in  
23 FPL's service areas, and over 200 employees. So  
24 one of the things we do at our firm is we do  
25 represent some municipalities and developers that

1 work throughout all of south Florida. They come  
2 in, they look for hardening systems, undergrounding  
3 systems and improving the systems that a lot of our  
4 old overhead lines are -- in our storms some of the  
5 challenges that all utility companies run into with  
6 storms coming into our state.

7 So I was happy to come to you to say I  
8 appreciate the work of FPL and those folks and  
9 those divisions that work with us to help the  
10 hardening projects and the undergrounding. It is  
11 imperative that they have additional dollars, in my  
12 opinion. Their staff is very tight and very lean,  
13 and the amount of work that they take on every year  
14 to harden the systems and underground those  
15 facilities for the number of folks they employ is  
16 really rather remarkable. We have worked with that  
17 team on a regular basis, and all of my employees  
18 and folks and families that live here throughout  
19 the state utilize the services of FPL.

20 So certainly, as a business owner, and someone  
21 who has watched everything in my life in industry,  
22 things cost more in Florida, they do every year,  
23 there are going to be rate increases. I think FPL  
24 has been good stewards of our dollars over the year  
25 and increases they have gotten, they paid a lot of

1 attention. They are pushing into solar. They are  
2 pushing into different areas, but certainly I stand  
3 here as a business owner and a resident of the  
4 state of Florida for many, many years, and  
5 appreciate what they do here, and certainly they  
6 need additional funding to be able to continue to  
7 harden and upgrade our systems, and just provide  
8 the services that we need throughout the state.

9 So thank you for your time, and I appreciate  
10 the opportunity to speak to you.

11 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

12 MR. TRIERWEILER: Edgar.

13 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Sir, do you mind taking a  
14 quick oath?

15 MR. LAFAURIE: Yes, absolutely.

16 (Whereupon, Chairman La Rosa administered the  
17 oath.)

18 THE WITNESS: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Okay, you are recognized,  
20 sir.

21 PUBLIC COMMENT

22 MR. LAFAURIE: All right. Well, good  
23 evening -- good afternoon, actually. I had  
24 something written, but I am just going to just  
25 speak from the heart.

1           I -- my name is Edgar Lafaurie, by the way,  
2           last name is LaFaurie. I am a property manager. I  
3           have a property management company here in Broward  
4           County. We oversee over 5,000 condominium units,  
5           and so I have direct experience with managing  
6           budgets, understanding expenses, and all of that.  
7           And the reason I am saying that is because  
8           electricity is one of those things that we use  
9           every day, basically every second of the day.

10           And when I look at our budgets, even on a  
11           personal level, I look at my personal bill, it's  
12           about \$200 a month, right. My insurance bill is,  
13           like, 6,000 a year. And I don't necessarily use my  
14           insurance every day. Obviously, it's got some  
15           value, but when it comes to electricity, you need  
16           it for every single second of the day.

17           And of course, I am not in favor of increases  
18           and stuff like that, but when you start to think  
19           about it, and you see the value and benefit that  
20           you get from electricity, which I guess that you  
21           use every second of the day, it's a relatively  
22           small expense compared to everything else.

23           Of course I am not, you know, saying that I  
24           want increases no matter what, but what I know that  
25           we definitely can't afford is to, you know,

1 sacrifice that service and that dependability that  
2 we all have grown to have with electricity. I  
3 mean, we just need it, you know.

4 And again, from a property manager standpoint,  
5 seeing all the hurdles that we go through with  
6 insurance, all these different things that come  
7 along, that directly impacts communities. It's  
8 easy to kind of, like, overlook and forget about  
9 the importance of electricity and having it there,  
10 and how dependable it is, and so it's easy to just  
11 forget about it, right. It's not technology, but  
12 honestly we all benefit from it a lot, and I just  
13 wouldn't want to sacrifice any future improvements  
14 to the system or anything that needs to be done in  
15 order to make sure that we keep that service, that  
16 reliable service there on a consistent basis.

17 So I am sure that you guys will make the right  
18 decision, but my point is I just want to make sure  
19 we don't sacrifice anything. We move forward and  
20 continue to depend on the service that we know we  
21 have, and continue to enjoy it. So thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you.

23 MR. TRIERWEILER: Joseph.

24 PUBLIC COMMENT

25 MR. RUIDIAZ: Hi, good afternoon. I need to

1 get sworn in.

2 CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: I'm sorry. Yeah, please  
3 raise your right hand.

4 (Whereupon, Chairman La Rosa administered the  
5 oath.)

6 PUBLIC COMMENT

7 MR. RUIDIAZ: I do.

8 I am not a public speaker, my name is Joseph  
9 Ruidiaz, I did write it down just because I just  
10 want to make sure I get it all out exactly right.

11 I am here as a resident. Been here over 20 --  
12 I want to say 20 years in south Florida, dealing  
13 with FPL. I have been a customer of FPL for that  
14 long. I am here to support the rate adjustment,  
15 not because I want to pay more, because I have  
16 personally seen the value that FPL provides to me,  
17 my family, and to obviously the community, with  
18 electricity.

19 It's reassuring to know that FPL is investing  
20 in a stronger system, smarter technology to keep  
21 the power on, what matters most. I love the fact  
22 that they have been up front, responsive to  
23 customers like me, trust, brought improvements,  
24 so -- sorry.

25 Basically, my whole thing is I would rather

1           see -- I would rather see the improvements be  
2           planned now, if that takes an increase to do it,  
3           rather than higher costs later in the future. I  
4           would rather them plan for it, which is amazing for  
5           FPL to actually do.

6                     That's all I wanted to say. Thank you for  
7           your time.

8                     CHAIRMAN LA ROSA: Thank you for your  
9           testimony.

10                    Awesome. I think that concludes the list. Is  
11           there anyone in the room that intended to speak but  
12           we did not call your name. Okay. Not seeing any.

13                    Again, thank you all for your time. Thank you  
14           all that have come out, a lot of folks have had to  
15           go different places. Thank you to the Hollywood  
16           North Beach Park for accommodating us. As we do  
17           this road trip, this is certainly an important part  
18           of the process, a place to accommodate us and, of  
19           course, hold the time to be able to hold the  
20           customers that need to be here. So thank you guys  
21           for working with us.

22                    I don't believe we have any further business,  
23           right, other than testimonies. There is nothing  
24           else entered into the record?

25                    Commissioners, do we have any further business

1           before us? Seeing none, again, thank you all and  
2           this meeting is adjourned.

3                       (Proceedings concluded.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

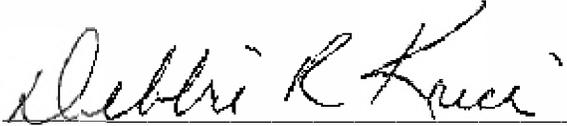
STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF LEON )

I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby  
certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the  
time and place herein stated.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I  
stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the  
same has been transcribed under my direct supervision;  
and that this transcript constitutes a true  
transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative,  
employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor  
am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'  
attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I  
financially interested in the action.

DATED this 26th day of June, 2025.

  
DEBRA R. KRICK  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
COMMISSION #HH575054  
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2028