

Hong Wang

From: Office of Commissioner Brown
Sent: Monday, January 04, 2021 2:38 PM
To: Commissioner Correspondence
Subject: FW: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Please place the attached in Docket No. 20210000.

Thank you!

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

From: drelizabethpepe@everyactioncustom.com [mailto:drelizabethpepe@everyactioncustom.com]
Sent: Friday, January 01, 2021 5:42 PM
To: Office of Commissioner Brown
Subject: Protect our solar rights! Docket: 2020-0000

Dear Commissioner Julie Imanuel Brown,

I am a self-employed physician. I am board-certified in family medicine and also urgent care. I have been a front-line worker in COVID hospitals and regular clinics. I am a Locum Tenens physician, which means I travel for short period of work...possibly 2 weeks to 6 months at a time. I may spend 2-3 months unemployed. Because of COVID-19, I was able to glean 2 months of work in COVID hospitals and free-standing clinics, but then regular clinics which are my bread-and-butter have closed due to the pandemic. I am now unemployed, and have been so since September. My electric bill has gone into the mid-to-high \$200 range in the summer and fall. I cannot afford this, and need to go solar. Amid a public health and economic crisis, it's clear that Florida's electric utilities should be doing a whole lot more to promote rooftop solar - a known job creator that keeps money in families' pockets.

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,
Dr. Elizabeth Pepe
192 Martesia Way Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937-3573