DATE: December 16, 2022

TO: Docket File

FROM: Jon Rubottom, Attorney


Please place the attached comments, received from Mary Dipboye on December 16, 2022, in the docket file for Docket No. 20200181-EU.
December 16, 2022

Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Docket No. 20200181; Post Workshop Comments

Dear Chairman Fay and Commissioners Graham, Clark, La Rosa, and Passidomo:

As faith leaders, we urge you to support revisions to the Florida Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act (FEECA) goal-setting rule that will provide access to meaningful energy efficiency programs for hard working families, especially lower income families, to help them reduce their energy use and save money on power bills.

Fuel bill increases are hitting many families hard – exacerbating already high energy burdens. For instance, higher fossil gas costs passed on by FPL this year have spiked the fuel portion of power bills by 24% - impacting customers from Miami to Pensacola. Likewise, Duke Energy Florida and Tampa Electric gained approval to raise the fuel portion of customer bills by 21% and 38% respectively. These bill increases do not account for fuel and base rate increases in 2021 and the massive bill increases expected in 2023. The state is heavily reliant on fossil fuels for generating electricity and there is no end in sight to high gas prices.

Energy efficiency is a low cost, low risk resource. Therefore, the state should scale up investment in lower cost energy efficiency as it helps move families off the high power bill treadmill. But roadblocks, like outdated restrictive cost-effectiveness tests and screens in setting energy efficiency goals, lead to very weak energy savings achievements in Florida. That hurts families and the state's economy. Isn't it time to modernize 30-year-old practices that have kept Florida at the bottom of state rankings for using energy smarter?

We are called to be good stewards of God’s creation. Scaling up energy efficiency is the quickest, cheapest and cleanest way to meet customer electricity demand and reduce harmful emissions that are negatively impacting our natural environment and local communities. By using energy smarter we can ensure energy savings for all families while also protecting our air, water and land for future generations.

Therefore, we urge you to modernize the state’s energy efficiency goal setting rule in a way that provides clear direction to the state’s utilities to increase the scale and depth of energy efficiency programs for hard working families.

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Russell Meyer
Exec. Director, Florida Council of Churches, Tampa, FL

Rev. Emily A. Sterling-Strongman, Executive Pastor
First United Methodist Church of Orlando, FL

Sister Mary Haskins
Sisters of the Holy Names, Florida Group, Tampa, FL

Henry Millat, Pres. Board of Trustees
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lake County, Eustis, FL

Rev. Rachel S. DeLaune, Assoc. Minister
First United Methodist Church, Winter Park, FL

Deacon Steve Beumer
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Winter Park, FL

Rev Margalie Belizaire
First Unitarian Church of Orlando, Orlando, FL

Rev. Alison P. Harrity
St. Richard's Episcopal Church, Winter Park, FL

Minister Lee Anne Washington
Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL

Rev. Kaaren Anderson, Interim Minister
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Vero Beach, Vero Beach, FL

Rev. Christe Lunsford
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville, Gainesville, FL

Rev. Holly Brown, Interim Minister
Unitarian Universalist Church of Tallahassee, Tallahassee, FL

Imam Muhammad Musri, President
Islamic Society of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Rev. Mary Piccard Vance, Retired
Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, FL

Rev. Megan Smith
Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ, Miami, FL
Rev. Dr. Neddy Astudillo  
GreenFaith Network, Tampa, FL

Rev. Nathan Adams, Lead Pastor  
Christ Church United Methodist, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Beverly G. Ward, Field Secretary for Earthcare  
Southeastern Yearly Meeting for the Religious Society of Friends, St Petersburg, FL

Pastor Dawn Conti, Co-Pastor  
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Clearwater, FL

Rev. Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson  
First United Church of Tampa, Tampa, FL

Rev. Dr. Gabriel Morgan  
St Paul Lutheran Church, Tampa, FL

Rev. Tony Fisher  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Greater Naples, Naples, FL

Lynn K. Robbins, Ph.D  
Temple Beth El, Fort Myers, FL

Rev. Angela Wells-Bean  
Naples United Church of Christ, Naples, FL