

March 31, 2021

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

Re: Docket No. 20200181

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

As the Florida Public Service Commission explores revisions to the Florida Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act (FEECA) conservation goal setting rule, we urge you to address head-on the core issues in the process that create roadblocks to capturing energy savings for customers and that have led to very weak energy savings achievements in Florida compared to the rest of the country. It has been almost 30 years since the rule has been revisited. We need to get it right.

No other state relies on the outdated cost effectiveness and screening methods - the Rate Impact Measure test and the 2-year payback screen - that Florida uses. This practice led many of the state's largest electric utilities to propose zero or near zero goals in the 2019 FEECA process.

As local elected officials, we are frustrated by these abysmal results, as you should be as well. We are keenly aware of the important role that robust energy efficiency programs can play in our community. Efficiency programs help our residents reduce energy use and save money on power bills - keeping more dollars in the local economy rather than leaving the state to bring in fuels from elsewhere.

Efficiency programs help reduce the energy burden - the disproportionately higher percentage of income - that our most vulnerable low-income residents pay for power bills. Offering programs to address the needs of low-income families is more important than ever given the continuing economic fallout from the COVID-19 crisis. The thousands of families that are in arrears on bills or have been disconnected lays bare the fact that so many have unnecessarily high bills in the first place.

Energy efficiency is the quickest, cheapest and cleanest way to meet customer energy demand, and for local governments to meet climate sustainability and resilience goals. But, when energy savings targets are set too low by the Commission, electric utilities underinvest in energy efficiency. This limits customer access to the most effective methods to reduce monthly power bills and hinders our ability to meet established local sustainability goals.

When FEECA was established in 1980, the legislature recognized the importance of both controlling the growth rates of electricity consumption and peak demand through conservation programs, and that doing so would protect the health, prosperity and welfare of the citizens of the state. Their original intent rings even

truer today, but decades-old practices used in setting the state's efficiency savings targets are outdated and only serve to trap people with excessive bills.

Energy efficiency policy is dynamic. Technologies and customer needs change. So should the Commission's rules.

Therefore, we request that the PSC address the roadblocks holding back progress and ensure that its practices comport with national best practices. We believe that this will lead to the best outcome for the state and its citizens.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Beckman, Council Member
City of Clearwater

Jennifer Brahier Council Member
City of Pensacola

Teniade Broughton, Council Member
City of Pensacola

Richard Chervony Commissioner
North Bay Village

Gina Driscoll, Council Vice-Chair
City of St. Petersburg

Ebo Entsuah, Council Member
City of Clermont

Beam Furr, Commissioner
Broward County

Becky Tooley, Mayor
City of Coconut Creek

Brandi Gabbard, Council Member
City of St. Petersburg

Eileen Higgins, Commissioner
Miami-Dade County

Ann Hill, Council Vice-Chair
City of Pensacola

Sabrina Javellana, Commissioner
City of Hallandale Beach

Brent Latham, Mayor
North Bay Village

Janet C. Long, Commissioner
Pinellas County

Rob Marlowe, Mayor
City of New Port Richey

Monica Mayotte, Council Member
City of Boca Raton

Nancy Metayer, Commissioner
City of Coral Springs

Omarr Nickerson, Mayor
Village of El Portal

Sally Philips, Mayor
City of South Miami

Jamie Robinson, Commissioner
City of Largo

Darden Rice, Council Member
City of St. Petersburg

Nan H. Rich, Commissioner
Broward County

Alissa Jean Schafer, Commissioner
Broward Soil and Water Conservation District

Caryl S. Shuham, Commissioner
City of Hollywood

Joshua Simmons, Vice-Mayor
City of Coral Springs

Rachel Streitfeld, Commissioner
North Bay Village

Sandra Welch, Commissioner
City of Coconut Creek