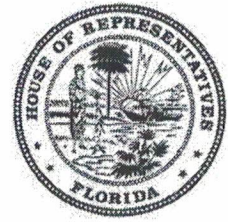




Senator Jack Latvala
26133 U.S. Highway 19 North
Suite 201
Clearwater, FL 33763



Representative Debbie Mayfield
1053 20th Place
Vero Beach, FL 32960

September 12, 2016

Julie Brown, Chair
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re: Indian River Shores; PSC Docket No. 160049-EU

Chairwoman Brown,

It has been brought to my attention that the Public Service Commission will be holding public hearings on Tuesday, September 13th, regarding a request to modify the electric service territorial boundaries within the corporate limits of the Town of Indian River Shores (the "Town").

In considering this request, I strongly encourage you to carefully consider your actions and listen closely to the pleas from the aggrieved citizens of Indian River Shores.

This is a unique situation that not only involves constitutional issues, but also issues of fundamental fairness. For far too long, the citizens of the Town have been given no voice and no form of representation before their electrical provider, the City of Vero Beach. With no way to redress their complaints at either the ballot box or through a representative utility authority, thousands of consumers in the Town have been subjected to excessive rates and poor quality service from an unresponsive provider. When your predecessors approved the territorial boundary line that now divides the Town, I'm sure that they never envisioned that the City of Vero Beach electric utility would systematically disenfranchise its non-resident customers in the Town.

But that is what has happened and that is unacceptable. It was never the intent of the Legislature that Florida's consumers be subject to the whims of an unregulated utility provider acting as a monopoly and lacking accountability to its customers.

As commissioners of the Public Service Commission, it is your responsibility to consider the rights of the public and take the necessary actions to provide solutions and protect the best interests of our citizens. I know none of you take that responsibility lightly. If the law gives the Public Service Commission the authority to establish monopoly service areas, surely that carries with it the authority to protect disenfranchised customers where the utility is abusing its monopoly status.

I am confident that the Public Service Commission will make the right decision in this matter and amend the territorial boundaries as requested in order to end the abusive practices that have befallen the citizens of the Town of Indian River Shores.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Regards,



Jack Latvala
State Senator, District 20



Debbie Mayfield
State Representative, District 54

cc: The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor of Florida
Braulio Baez, Executive Director, Florida PSC
Commissioner Ronald Brise
Commissioner Lisa Edgar
Commissioner Art Graham
Commissioner Jimmy Patronis
Summertree Water Alliance