

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 26, 2019

Honorable Ashley Moody
Attorney General
State of Florida
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

RE: Florida Energy Choice Ballot Amendment

Dear Attorney General Moody:

We appreciate your efforts in opposing the proposed amendment “Right to Competitive Energy Market for Customers of Investor-Owned Utilities; Allowing Energy Choice” as we believe this amendment dismantles the reliability of the bulk-power system that the Federal Government through the Department of Energy is charged with protecting.¹ Under the guise of providing choice to consumers of electricity, the amendment forces the Florida Legislature to deregulate Florida’s energy market without requiring a reliable alternative for consumers and is damaging for our state’s progress toward clean energy.

This amendment threatens complete energy deregulation, which would create a middleman and allow third parties to come between consumers and power providers, ultimately increasing energy costs for Floridians. If passed, consumers could also be denied electric service or required to pay large deposits to receive service. Seniors and communities of color are typically affected at a higher rate than other consumers in unregulated electric markets.

Not only do energy deregulated states pay more for power, they also have less reliability. Following deregulation, states have experienced power blackouts for extended periods of time with forced outages to reserve power for critical facilities, including hospitals and water treatment plants, as well as other critical public facilities. In a state prone to hurricane disasters, Florida consumers must have a reliable energy market.

Even those who see alternative ways to provide electricity to Floridians are opposed to complete deregulation. They believe it would be damaging to our state’s progress toward clean energy and solar development. The amendment’s passage would likely result in years of delay in solar energy development. We cannot allow Florida’s energy market to be disrupted by special interests rather than the interest of the public.


¹ Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Strategic Plan, page vi, <https://www.ferc.gov/about/strat-docs/FY-2018-FY-2022-strat-plan.pdf>

We, as Members of the Congressional delegation of Florida, encourage you to continue to fight against this ballot initiative that we believe will harm Floridians.


Sincerely,


DARREN SOTO
Member of Congress


GUS M. BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress



VERN BUCHANAN
Member of Congress


CHARLIE CRIST
Member of Congress



VAL B. DEMINGS
Member of Congress



TED E. DEUTCH
Member of Congress


MARIO DIAZ-BALART
Member of Congress



NEAL P. DUNN, M.D.
Member of Congress



LOIS FRANKEL
Member of Congress


ALCEE L. HASTINGS
Member of Congress


AL LAWSON, JR.
Member of Congress


BRIAN J. MAST
Member of Congress


DEBBIE MUCARSEL-POWELL
Member of Congress


STEPHANIE MURPHY
Member of Congress

Francis Rooney

FRANCIS ROONEY
Member of Congress

John H. Rutherford

JOHN H. RUTHERFORD
Member of Congress

Donna E. Shalala

DONNA E. SHALALA
Member of Congress

W. Gregory Steube

W. GREGORY STEUBE
Member of Congress

Michael Waltz

MICHAEL WALTZ
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress

Daniel Webster

DANIEL WEBSTER
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson

FREDERICA S. WILSON
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho

TED S. YOH, DVM
Member of Congress

Bill Posey

BILL POSEY
Member of Congress