

January 5, 2022

Chairman Gary F. Clark & PSC Commissioners  
Florida Public Service Commission  
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Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850  
[Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:Commissioner.Clark@psc.state.fl.us)  
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RE: Requesting an Audit of Florida Power & Light's Finances

**Dear Chairman Clark & Commissioners,**

Last year, Floridians watched a series of scandals unfold in their local newspapers, stemming from three "spoiler candidates" who ran in the 2020 election cycle to deceive voters, undermine democracy, and siphon away votes from Democratic candidates running in those same seats.

At the time, nobody knew where the money for these fake candidates came from. The only donor was a brand new political nonprofit called "Grow United" -- but according to reporting by both the [Orlando Sentinel](#) and [Times-Union](#), "Grow United" was a front group set up by political consultants working for Florida Power & Light (FPL).

Those same FPL consultants have set up similar front groups and FPL has given millions of dollars to those groups, which then pass the money around in an apparent effort to hide the fact that FPL is behind it. The CEO of FPL even used a pseudonym email account under the fake name of "Theodore Hayes" to communicate with these consultants about how to hide money.

Unfortunately, this is only the tip of the iceberg. These same FPL consultants have staged spoiler candidates in other races, set up fake grassroots groups and paid activists to promote FPL's interests. They even tried to convince a member of the Jacksonville City Council who didn't want to sell the city's utility company to FPL to take a new job they'd created so that he would resign.

**This reporting has raised significant questions around the potential of ratepayer funds being used to not only influence elections but to undermine democracy through fake candidate schemes, astroturfing, and attempted bribes.**

FPL ratepayers deserve to know whether the money they are forced to send the utility every month to pay their bills was used not only to influence elections, but also to undermine democracy through fake candidate schemes.

The question of ratepayer funds being improperly used is of national interest as well. In December 2021, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a Notice of Inquiry (NOI) to seek comment on the accounting treatment of utilities' trade association dues to protect electric and gas customers from paying for the

trade associations' political activities through their utility bills (Docket RM22-5-000). The most recent FPL rate case settlement approved by the FL PSC included approximately \$20 million in trade association dues to groups that routinely participate in political activity and lobbying.

We are requesting that the PSC immediately begin an in-depth and thorough audit of FPL's expenditures to determine whether ratepayer money was used, directly or indirectly, to finance any of the political influence schemes that the [Orlando Sentinel](#) and [Times-Union](#) have outlined. We request that the PSC undertake a review of applicable rules and appropriate regulatory policies related to ratepayer financing of FPL's political machine.

We agree that the PSC's mission "to facilitate the efficient provision of safe and reliable utility services at fair prices" is critical to the people of Florida. While FPL bills are going up, along with many other costs, as constituents continue to feel the financial impacts of COVID-19 and economic hardships, FPL's apparent intentional lack of transparency, along with potential corporate and political corruption has raised serious concerns around the state.

The PSC must do its duty to protect Floridians from unjustified cost increases due to unethical corporate behavior from our regulated monopolies. Over 11 million Floridians are captive customers, with no choice but to pay FPL every month. It is imperative that we have the assurance that these customers are not being taken advantage of by their regulated monopolies.

We the undersigned strongly urge you to act in the best interest of all Floridians and address the concerns and lack of transparency outlined above.

**Sincerely,**



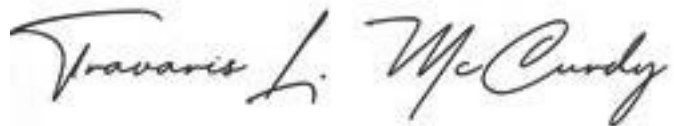
**Representative Angie Nixon**  
Florida House of Representatives, District 14



**Representative Anna V. Eskamani**  
Florida House of Representatives, District 47



**Representative Carlos Guillermo Smith**  
Florida House of Representatives, District 49



**Representative Travaris L. McCurdy**  
Florida House of Representatives, District 46