



WHO WE ARE &
WHY WE CAME TOGETHER

ENERGY DEREGULATION: WHO IS **FARE**?



- Floridians for Affordable Reliable Energy is a coalition of progressive organizations & grassroots donors
- Committed to protecting Floridians from large corporations who want to **deregulate** the Florida energy market
- Working to stop the targeting of vulnerable communities like our seniors and low income

ENERGY DEREGULATION: **FARE** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott
Arceneaux



- Chief Strategist for Andrew Gillum
- Senior Advisor for Hillary Clinton
- Former ED of the FDP
- President, Arceneaux Strategies
- Jacksonville, Florida

Robert
Asencio



- Former State Representative
- Retired Police Captain
- Proud Veteran
- Miami, Florida

J.B.
Clark



- Director for Florida Electrical Workers Assn. (IBEW)
- Executive Board of Florida AFL-CIO
- 4 years on the Florida Energy & Climate Commission
- Electric Utility Reliability Roundtable
- Energy 2020 Study Commission
- Workforce Florida Board
- Power Plan Siting Study Commission
- 2016 Construction Workforce Task Force

ENERGY DEREGULATION: **FARE** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joe
Gibbons



- Former State Representative
- Leader Pro Tempore 2010-12
- Past Chair of National Black Caucus of State Legislators committee on energy, transportation and environment
- Fierce advocate for Florida's working families
- Hallandale Beach, Florida

Jackie
Lee



- Founding Partner of Jlee Strategies
- Campaign Manager for the Florida Fair Districts (2010)
- Senior Advisor for Florida Restorations of Rights Campaign (Amendment 4)
- Veteran of Obama Florida Leadership team (2008 & 2012)
- Orlando, Florida

Robin
Lockett



- NAACP Political Chair
- Tampa Bay Director – Fair Districts
- Tampa Bay Director – NextGen Climate
- President of Hillsborough Democratic Black Caucus
- Tampa, Florida

ENERGY DEREGULATION: **FARE** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gil
Ziffer



- Former Tallahassee city commissioner
- Past president of the Florida League of Cities
- Board of Directors of the National League of Cities
- President of Ziffer Stansbury Marketing
- Tallahassee, Florida

ENERGY DEREGULATION: **BACKGROUND**



Ahead of 2020 Election, a group – **Citizens for Energy Choices** - has formed to advance a constitutional amendment to deregulate Florida’s energy marketplace.



The Amendment is titled “**Right to Competitive Energy Market for Customers of Investor-Owned Utilities; Allowing Energy Choice**”

This proposal limits Florida’s investor-owned utilities to only construction, operation and maintenance of the electric grid, prohibiting them from producing or selling electricity, forcing them to divest of their generation assets, and potentially their transmission and distribution assets, and so that customers can “choose” their own electric provider.



ENERGY DEREGULATION: **BAD FOR FAMILIES**

*“If **THEY** pay less, **WE** pay more.”*



- Studies demonstrate that **residential consumers** in deregulated states consistently **pay some of the highest electricity prices** in the nation.
- **Large corporations**, particularly retailers like WalMart, back a deregulated market because they have an army of lawyers and accountants to negotiate **sweetheart deals**.
- But, customers must individually grasp complicated payment contracts.
- In deregulated states, energy retailers use **CREDIT SCORE** to set rates for individuals.
- **How will un-bankable and un-rateable families power their homes...by paying more!?**

ENERGY DEREGULATION: **CITIZEN INITIATIVE PETITION PROCESS**



- In Florida, the people have a right to propose amendments to the Florida Constitution through an **initiative petition process**.
- In order to get a proposed amendment on the ballot, you have to gather **766,200 signed petitions** from registered voters and the signatures must come from **at least 14 of Florida's 27 congressional districts**. (Number of petitions needed is eight percent of the number of voters voting in the last presidential election.)
- **Onerous Process** – Set up a political committee, circulate petition, pay cost of verification (10 cents per petition), Supreme Court Review and Fiscal impact statement.

ENERGY DEREGULATION: **CITIZEN INITIATIVE PETITION PROCESS**



- All petitions must be submitted to each **County Supervisors of Elections**. They then have **30 days to verify** each petition and submit totals to the Florida Division of Elections. Note – A signature on a petition is valid for only two years from the date signed.
- **Deadline** to ensure ballot placement for the 2020 General Election is **February 1, 2020**.
- Proposed amendments must get at least **60% of the vote to become law**.

ENERGY DEREGULATION: **WHERE IS THE AMENDMENT NOW?**



- Citizens for Energy Choices collected the amount of signatures needed for **Florida Supreme Court judicial review**. (10% of total needed – 76,620 verified petitions)
- To date, they have **254,023 valid signatures**. This number goes up each week.
- Briefs were due to the Supreme Court. **Oral arguments are set for August 28, 2019.**
- The Supreme Court will take time to render their decision on the appropriateness of the ballot language. Citizens Initiatives must be **single subject** and **not confusing to voters**.

ENERGY DEREGULATION: **BAD FOR CONSUMERS**



As part of the constitutional amendment review process, the Attorney General must review the ballot language and issue a legal opinion before its heard by the Florida Supreme Court.

ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



In her review, General Moody “described the amendment as a veiled attempt to “eliminate” the state’s investor-owned utilities...”



She further said, “that the amendment’s “undisclosed chief purpose” is actually the opposite” of being pro-consumer choice and could limit consumers ability to be serviced by their existing energy provider.

ENERGY DEREGULATION: **BAD FOR FLORIDA'S BUDGET**



The proposed constitutional amendment to deregulate Florida's energy marketplace WILL lead to significant higher costs...



- "More than \$1 Billion in state impact" - the Financial Impact Estimating Conference reported.

- [this will] "result in additional costs that do not exist today and will likely be significant," the analysts said.



Florida of League of Cities and Florida Association of Counties oppose this effort because of the negative impact on municipal budgets.

ENERGY DEREGULATION: **BAD FOR OUR CITIES**



- **The Florida League of Cities** has taken the lead in **aggressively opposing energy deregulation.**
- The League's Scott Dudley:
 - "Aside from the highly questionable benefits it will bring to consumers, **it may have devastating fiscal impacts on Florida's cities.**"
 - "**this proposal jeopardizes all local electric franchise fees and public service taxes. It would substantially reduce ad valorem tax revenue as the result of the "fire sale" of electric assets.**"
 - Deregulation puts "massive annual local revenues at risk: nearing \$2 billion a year. **The proposal also impairs other existing municipal rights.**"

(Letter to League members, March 19, 2019)

ENERGY DEREGULATION: **A BAD DEAL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**



- **The Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, led by Stephen Smith & Florida Director Susan Glickman, is opposed to deregulation.**
- **They state: “we are seeing a significant uptick in the growth of solar and now storage technology. We have strong concerns these will be at risk. Thus, SACE is NOT in support of opening up Florida’s energy markets through passage of this particular ballot initiative.”**
- **They cite two reasons:**
 - **“This initiative could cause the delay or cancellation of roughly 6,000 megawatts (MW) of solar over the next five years, and...”**
 - **“The FEC initiative could eliminate net metering for solar systems, affecting both existing and future distributed solar customers.”**

www.cleanenergy.org, March 29, 2019

ENERGY DEREGULATION: **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**



- **Get Educated:**
 - Visit www.FAREflorida.org to sign-up for email alerts.
 - Talk to policy experts at the League of Cities, SACE, or at municipal, cooperative or investor-owned utilities.
- **Take a Stand:**
 - **Endorse FARE's effort** to defeat the misguided effort to deregulate Florida's energy market.
- **Get Involved:**
 - **Sign up to be a FARE surrogate.** We need surrogates for community outreach in your district.
 - **Like us on [Facebook](#) & Follow us on [twitter](#).**
 - **Write an Op-Ed:** We can help place a editorial in your local newspaper outlining the negative impacts of this initiative.



FARE



Floridians for
Affordable
Reliable Energy

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