



ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF FLORIDA
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Statement by:
Barney Bishop, President and CEO of Associated Industries of Florida
Regarding Intervening in Florida Power & Light's Rate Case

Tallahassee – “Today, for the first time ever, the Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) is intervening in a rate case on behalf of a utility company. We believe no business can continue to invest in modernizing its infrastructure without periodically adjusting its fees or rates, which is why AIF has intervened to support Florida Power & Light's (FPL) request for a rate adjustment, which will come before the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC).

“Florida knows all too well the fury of Mother Nature and has experienced the impact and disruption of power during hurricane season. Given the unparalleled extent of vulnerable area that FPL serves on both the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, this is an issue that should concern all Floridians. FPL's rate proposal would be used to harden infrastructure against hurricanes while building up hurricane reserves that are used in the aftermath of storms to ensure the least amount of power disruption to customers.

“AIF believes the PSC and Florida customers should welcome FPL's forward-thinking efforts to invest in an infrastructure that is stronger, more storm resistant, more fuel efficient and more environmentally friendly.

“Currently, FPL's bill is among the lowest of the state's 54 utilities, and it has not received a base rate increase in more than a quarter century. An increase in its base rate would allow FPL to continue investing in existing infrastructure, making it more reliable, cleaner and more efficient while creating high-wage green jobs.

“The company has demonstrated exemplary efforts in fuel efficiency by making its power plants among the cleanest in Florida and nationwide, which has saved its customers nearly \$3 billion in fuel costs since 2003.

“FPL is a leading employer in the state with 11,000 employees, serving 4.5 million customer accounts, making it the largest electric utility in Florida. The company has a proven track record of balancing its commitment to customers, providing

excellent service and developing a renewable energy supply. On top of that, FPL has the lowest emissions profile and the number one energy efficiency program among utilities nationwide.

“We encourage the commissioners of the Public Service Commission to vote in favor of FPL’s request at a time when it is more important than ever to invest in the future of our state’s economic viability.”

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