

**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.<sup>1</sup> 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.

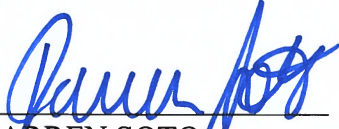
Even those who see alternative ways to provide electricity to Floridians are opposed to complete deregulation. They believe it would be damaging to our state’s progress toward clean energy and solar development. The amendment’s passage would likely result in years of delay in solar energy development.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

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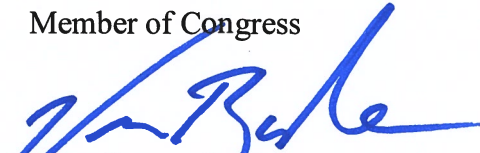
<sup>1</sup> Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Strategic Plan, page vi, <https://www.ferc.gov/about/strat-docs/FY-2018-FY-2022-strat-plan.pdf>

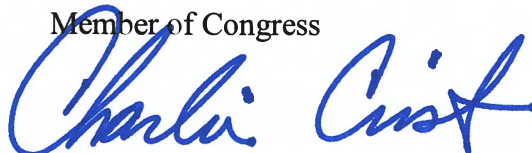
We, as Members of the Congressional delegation of Florida, encourage you to continue to fight against this ballot initiative that we believe will harm Floridians.

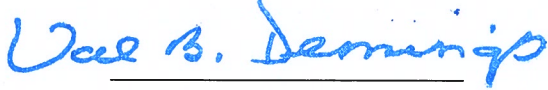
Sincerely,

  
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

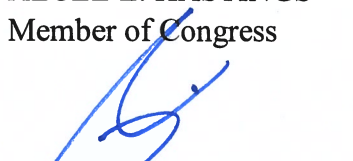
  
MARIO DIAZ-BALART  
Member of Congress


  
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