



Manatee County Businesses Support Affordable Energy Reform

Dear Senate President-Elect Jim Boyd,

We, Food and Water Watch and our undersigned business allies, write to urge you as Florida's next Senate President to take action on rising electricity bills. Local businesses in Manatee County are suffering as the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) and large corporations like Florida Power and Light (FPL) and Tampa Electric (TECO) prioritize profit over the financial wellbeing of their customers. On top of rising inflation, skyrocketing utility bills pose a significant challenge that threatens the viability of small businesses and undermines our community's economic stability.

Food & Water Watch analysis found that between December 2020 and January 2026,

- TECO residential bills increased 86% — about \$980 more annually
- Duke residential bills increased by 49% — about \$747 more annually
- FPL residential bills increased 45% — about \$511 more annually

Local residents and businesses cannot afford continued rate increases, especially as energy consumption and bills surge during the hot summer months. [National polling shows that about 80% of small business owners reported that energy costs significantly impact their business.](#)

The business community is struggling under the weight of rising electricity costs, and we need your leadership. State regulators have become a rubber stamp for the rate hikes that have caused our bills to skyrocket, because Florida laws allow them to do so. Florida lawmakers have the power to advance affordable energy reforms that would rein in excessive utility profits, hold utilities and their regulators accountable, and ensure energy is fair and affordable for Florida residents and small businesses.

As the next Senate President, you have a unique opportunity to stand with working Floridians and local businesses to put an end to excessive utility rate hikes. Senator Boyd, we urge you to protect the financial wellbeing of our communities and support affordable energy reform.

Signed,

Tampa Contracting
Service, Inc.
Palmetto, 34221

Great FL Insurance
Bradenton, 34205

Waypoint Bar & Grill
Palmetto, 34221

Financial Services of
Bradenton
Bradenton, 34205

Memory Lane Tattoo
Bradenton, 34205

Millie's Sweets & Treats
Bradenton, 34205

The Cat's Meow, A
Vintage Marketplace
Bradenton, 34205

The Blue Flamingo
Bradenton, 34205

The Brown Bag
Bradenton, 34205

The Village Mystic
Bradenton, 34205

Left of Center Gallery
Bradenton, 34205

Jerk Dog Records
Bradenton, 34205

Wings n Things
Bradenton, 34210

Driftwood Beach
Longboat Key, 34228

Design 2000 Salon
Longboat Key, 34228

Sage Biscuit Restaurant
Bradenton, 34205

The Feast Restaurant
Holmes Beach, 34217

AMI Beach & Dog Supply
Holmes Beach, 34217

Original Sand Dollar
Holmes Beach, 34217

Bits & Pieces
Bradenton, 34205

Palmetto Coin Shop,
Palmetto, 34221

Shop Fish
Anna Maria, 34216

Olive Oil Outpost
Anna Maria 34216

Pineapple Marketplace
Anna Maria, 34216

Luma Tides Creations
Anna Maria, 34216

Holmes Barber
Holmes Beach, 34217

Revive Nutrition
Bradenton, 34205

Mantee Shoe Repair &
Alterations
Bradenton, 34205

Paradise Therapy
Bradenton, 34205

Nautilus Craft Studio
Anna Maria, 34216