



March 7, 2018

Board of County Commissioners, Miami-Dade County
Stephen P. Clark Government Center
111 NW 1st Street, Suite 220
Miami, Florida 33128

RE: Miami-Dade and FPL Collaboration

Dear Commissioners,

For more than three decades, Florida International University (FIU) and Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) have partnered on various projects to help prepare students for successful careers in the renewable energy field. Since our faculty and students are already engaged in research related to multiple facets of power generation, transmission and distribution, we see the proposed collaboration between Miami-Dade County and FPL as an important opportunity to bring advanced power generation technologies to our community.

At FIU we are keenly aware of the importance of environmental sustainability and are engaged in renewable energy research in partnership with FPL. This includes the operation of a commercial-scale solar installation at FIU's College of Engineering and Computing. Our engineering faculty and students from the Energy, Power & Sustainability program at FIU use the installation to conduct important research to help FPL advance solar energy in the state. FPL also donated an electric vehicle from its clean fleet to FIU's College of Engineering and Computing to further research and test wireless charging technology. Students also work at the FPL laboratories every week to conduct high-end experiments and research on batteries and access points.

Through projects like the one Miami-Dade and FPL are proposing, our graduates will have more potential employment opportunities in areas that impact the economy, ecology and society as a whole. We support Miami-Dade County and FPL in these endeavors to increase renewable energy usage, and our students are excited to have the opportunity to participate in the projects that will increase the viability of renewable energy in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Arif I Sarwat".

Arif I Sarwat, Ph.D.,
Associate Professor and Director of Solar Research Center
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Attn: Commissioner District 1, Barbara J. Jordan Sent via Email: District1@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 2, Jean Monestime Sent via Email: District2@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 3, Audrey M. Edmonson Sent via Email: District3@MiamiDade.gov
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Commissioner District 12, Jose "Pepe" Diaz Sent via Email: District12@MiamiDade.gov
Commissioner District 13, Esteban L. Bovo, Jr. Sent via Email: District13@MiamiDade.gov

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