

[506 words, not including title]

Readers deserve unbiased facts on rooftop solar

The Miami Herald's Dec. 20 [story](#) on new legislation to alter the state's rooftop solar rules did readers a huge disservice, focusing on misinformation and petty anti-utility biases over facts important to every Florida electricity customer's bottom line.

While FPL is focused on what is justified for the whole of its 5.6 million customers, *The Miami Herald* serves up a piece penned by a notoriously biased reporter and sourced from the Energy and Policy Institute, a self-proclaimed 'watchdog' group that is [reportedly funded by dark money special interests](#) and linked to the multi-billion-dollar international rooftop solar industry.

To be clear, FPL does not oppose rooftop solar or net metering, which compensates homeowners for excess electricity produced. In fact, we help administer the state's current net metering policies and we support customers who have the financial means to install solar on their roof. But the decision to put solar on your roof should never mean that other customers must subsidize your choice, which is actually what happens today. Bottom line, more than 8.5 million Floridians pay higher electric bills today due to 90,000 residents who have chosen to install rooftop solar, and we just think that's patently unfair.

While *The Herald* led its readers to believe that FPL acted improperly by recommending draft legislation, nothing could be further from the truth. We've been working with lawmakers to suggest changes to the current policy, as well as actively and transparently communicating our position in Tallahassee and in front of the Florida Public Service Commission for several years.

FPL is America's biggest solar energy producer, and nobody is doing more to produce and store energy from the sun than we are. We simply believe that Florida and our customers benefit the most when the largest amount of reliable solar is installed for the lowest cost. This is indisputably achieved through large-scale, ground-mounted solar – like the 42 solar power plants FPL has today – which is more than three times more cost-effective than rooftop solar.

Unfortunately, *The Herald* provided readers little of this perspective in this travesty of misinformation, choosing instead to make claims about FPL's involvement in Florida politics and present other speculative reporting as fact without evidence of wrongdoing by FPL or its employees.

We aren't surprised by any of this, especially coming from Mary Ellen Klas, a partisan, anti-utility reporter who was recently caught on a hot mic in the State House, during a committee

meeting about redistricting, feeding questions to a lawmaker in an attempt to influence the proceeding and build a helpful record for opponents to use in future litigation on the issue.

Apparently, Ms. Klas thinks that lobbying is okay as long as it's not a utility doing it. And since *The Miami Herald* has known about her behavior in front of the Committee for weeks and has done nothing about it, apparently the paper thinks that level of hypocrisy is acceptable in its newsroom and its reporting.

It is no wonder so many Americans have lost faith and confidence in some of their media.

/s/

David P. Reuter
Chief Communications Officer
Florida Power & Light Company