

# FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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MICHAEL B. SHEEDY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



February 9, 2022

The Honorable Jennifer Bradley  
324 Senate Office Building  
404 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

## ***RE: Opposition to SB 1024 - Renewable Energy Generation***

Dear Senator Bradley:

Grounded in the knowledge that everything is interconnected, we are called to care for all of God's creation. In doing so, we seek to protect our common home and ensure the preservation of our environment, which sustains life through its natural resources. As Florida allocates hundreds of millions of dollars to sea level resilience and Everglades restoration, it is contradictory for SB 1024 to unnecessarily hamper the growth of renewable technologies. Our primary concerns about the negative impacts of SB 1024 are:

### **Reimbursing for "fully avoided costs" disincentivizes new renewable development**

Current net metering rules were adopted to incentivize the installation and generation of rooftop solar. Instituting a "fully avoided cost" rate removes the incentive and will negatively impact the adoption of these technologies. It should be noted that Florida's current policy has created a thriving industry that provides over 8,900 direct jobs, 31,000 indirect and induced jobs, and \$3.2 billion in household income across the state.

### **Additional charges and fees further erode incentives**

The bill further allows utilities to charge renewable providers additional fixed charges like facilities charges and grid access fees, further eroding any remaining economic incentives to adopt solar power. Utilities are already permitted to charge fees to net metering customers.

### **Does not create a more "fair and equitable" customer environment**

Current net metering rules make rooftop solar affordable for those who would otherwise not be able to afford it. The proposed changes unfairly target those who have less financial wherewithal. This compounds Florida utilities' overall low national ranking on energy efficiency improvement support for those with less financial means, and ought not guide Florida policy.

### **Bill mischaracterizes utility retail pricing structure**

Utilities do not have a single "retail" rate. Utilities currently cross-subsidize their commercial customers by charging them a lower "retail rate" than that charged to individual customers.

We oppose this bill. We hope bill sponsors will work with all stakeholders to find an equitable solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Kniepmann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ken" and last name "Kniepmann" clearly distinguishable.

Ken Kniepmann  
Associate for Health

cc: Most Rev. Enrique Delgado, FCCB Moderator for Health  
Michael B. Sheedy