**Energy Reregulation Ballot Initiative**

**Article for Newsletters to Consumer-Members Regarding Supreme Court Decision**

**NOTE: Following is a template article you may use to update your consumer-members on the latest developments with the energy reregulation initiative in an email newsletter or printed magazine. The author listed should be the general manager or other high-level leader within the organization.**

**Headline**: Florida Supreme Court Rules Against Misleading Energy Reregulation Constitutional Amendment

**Author:** [Sign article by general manager or other high-level leader within the organization]

**Word Count:** 310

On January 9, the Florida Supreme Court issued a unanimous opinion barring the proposed constitutional amendment to reregulate Florida’s energy industry from appearing on the ballot in November. It was the Supreme Court’s responsibility to determine if the amendment met the legal requirements to appear on the 2020 ballot for Florida voters to consider, and the court’s opinion proves that it did not.

As a co-op, our top priorities are to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electricity, and to protect the consumer-members we serve. The proposed constitutional amendment would have had immediate and inescapable consequences on our consumer-members, and that is why the Florida Electric Cooperatives Association (FECA), representing [our co-op], 14 other electric distribution cooperatives and two generation and transmission cooperatives, opposed the amendment. FECA prepared and delivered arguments to the Supreme Court in opposition to this initiative.

Concerns about the proposed amendment were:

* The ballot summary was affirmatively misleading and did not tell the truth with regard to the impact on cooperatives.
* The proposed amendment would have eliminated many of the cooperatives’ power supply agreements, which can affect access to electricity at affordable and predictable prices.
* The proposed amendment would have disrupted cooperatives’ service areas.
* The proposed amendment would have impacted cooperatives’ operations given the complexity of Florida’s electric grid.

These concerns were detailed in briefs submitted to the Florida Supreme Court by FECA and in oral arguments presented before the justices on August 28.

Now that the Florida Supreme Court has issued its opinion, this proposed amendment will not appear on the ballot during the upcoming general election in November 2020.

We are proud of the safe, reliable, and affordable service we provide to our consumer-members. At [insert co-op name], we put your interests above all else. We are proud to have supported the efforts to ensure this misleading initiative did not make it onto the ballot.