

**For Immediate Release**

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

**Contact:**

Sarah Bascom, [sarah@bascomllc.com](mailto:sarah@bascomllc.com), 850.294.6636

Kristen Bridges, [kristen@bascomllc.com](mailto:kristen@bascomllc.com), 850.545.1917

**Florida Electric Cooperatives Association: “Amendment 1 Promotes Safe Solar”**

**Orlando, Fla. –** *Consumers for Smart Solar*—a diverse, bipartisan coalition of business, civic and faith leaders—today announced that the Florida Electric Cooperatives Association (FECA) has endorsed Amendment 1.

“Florida’s not-for-profit electric cooperatives support solar, but it must be done right,” said FECA General Manager Bill Willingham. “The electric cooperatives’ focus is on protecting our consumer-owners and our employees while safely providing affordable and reliable power. Amendment 1 would promote safe solar by cementing into the Constitution the ability for state and local officials to continue providing safety and consumer protections. Amendment 1 also will protect those who cannot afford solar from being forced to subsidize the electric bills of those who can afford solar installations.”

FECA’s member cooperatives are not-for-profit electric companies organized for the purpose of supplying safe, reliable and affordable electric power to their consumer-owners. FECA’s members serve approximately 2.2 million Floridians in 53 counties.

“We welcome the Florida Electric Cooperatives Association to our growing list of supporters for Amendment 1,” said Dick Batchelor, co-chair of Consumers for Smart Solar. “FECA is right on target – Amendment 1 promotes solar the right way in Florida by allowing state and local governments to continue their proper role to safeguard consumer protections. Visit SmartSolarFL.org to learn how the Florida Solar Amendment promotes safe solar while protecting consumers from scams and rip-offs.”

Amendment 1 guarantees that Floridians will always have the right to own their own solar equipment and generate their own electricity. It also makes sure that solar has to play by the same consumer protection rules as other energy sources, and ensures that all residents are treated fairly, whether they choose to put solar panels on their home or not. The ballot language is as follows:

**Rights of electricity consumers regarding solar energy choice**

This amendment establishes a right under Florida's constitution for consumers to own or lease solar equipment installed on their property to generate electricity for their own use. State and local governments shall retain their abilities to protect consumer rights and public health, safety and welfare, and to ensure that consumers who do not choose to install solar are not required to subsidize the costs of backup power and electric grid access to those who do.

Standing in support of ‘Yes on 1 for the Sun’ are the following groups:

* [International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers](https://smartsolarfl.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/IBEW-Florida-Amendment-1.pdf)
* [National Black Chamber of Commerce](http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/national-black-chamber-of-commerce-joins-effort-in-support-of-consumer-friendly-smart-solar-amendment-300119839.html)
* [60 Plus Association](http://60plus.org/seniors-group-supports-consumers-for-smart-solar/)
* [National Congress of Black Women](http://florida.realestaterama.com/2015/08/13/statement-supporting-the-consumers-for-smart-solar-amendment-ID01959.html)
* [Florida State Conference of the NAACP](https://smartsolarfl.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Press-Release-Florida-State-Conference-of-Branches-and-Youth-Units.pdf)
* [Partnership for Affordable Clean Energy](http://energyfairness.org/2015/07/smart-solar-amendment-good-move-for-florida/)
* [Florida Council for Safe Communities](http://capitalsoup.com/2015/07/30/florida-council-for-safe-communities-announces-support-of-recently-launched-smart-solar-amendment/)
* [Floridians for Government Accountability](http://floridapolitics.com/archives/188252-floridians-for-government-accountability-latest-group-to-endorse-smart-solar-amendment)
* [Florida Faith & Freedom Coalition](https://smartsolarfl.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/amendment-1-florida-endorsement-vote-yes-faith-freedom-coalition.jpg)
* [Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce](http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/numerous-florida-hispanic-chambers-of-commerce-announce-support-for-amendment-1-300343538.html)
* [Florida Professional Firefighters](http://www.fpfp.org/index.cfm)
* [Florida TaxWatch](http://www.floridataxwatch.org/resources/pdf/2016VoterGuideNovFINAL.pdf)
* [Florida Black Chamber of Commerce](https://smartsolarfl.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/FBCC-Press-Release-Solar-Amendment-1.pdf)
* [Manatee County Black Chamber of Commerce](https://smartsolarfl.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Manatee-Black-Chamber-Amendment-1-Press-Release.pdf)
* [Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce](http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/numerous-florida-hispanic-chambers-of-commerce-announce-support-for-amendment-1-300343538.html)
* [Honduran American Chamber of Commerce](http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/numerous-florida-hispanic-chambers-of-commerce-announce-support-for-amendment-1-300343538.html)
* [Central Florida Urban League](http://ul-jacksonville.iamempowered.com/sites/ul-jacksonville.iamempowered.com/files/Central%20Florida%2C%20Jacksonville%2C%20and%20Pinellas%20County%20Urban%20Leagues%20Endorse%20Florida%20Amendment%201%20%281%29.pdf)
* [Jacksonville Urban League](http://ul-jacksonville.iamempowered.com/sites/ul-jacksonville.iamempowered.com/files/Central%20Florida%2C%20Jacksonville%2C%20and%20Pinellas%20County%20Urban%20Leagues%20Endorse%20Florida%20Amendment%201%20%281%29.pdf)
* [Pinellas County Urban League](http://ul-jacksonville.iamempowered.com/sites/ul-jacksonville.iamempowered.com/files/Central%20Florida%2C%20Jacksonville%2C%20and%20Pinellas%20County%20Urban%20Leagues%20Endorse%20Florida%20Amendment%201%20%281%29.pdf)

For more information on *Consumers for Smart Solar*, please visit [SmartSolarFL.org](https://smartsolarfl.org/), follow [@SmartSolarFL](https://twitter.com/SmartSolarFL) and like [FB.com/SmartSolarFL](https://www.facebook.com/smartsolarfl).

# # #

Paid political advertisement paid for by Consumers for Smart Solar, 2640-A Mitcham Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32308.