

TRANSCRIPT OF THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION BUSINESS AND EXECUTIVE OPEN SESSION HELD ON FEBRUARY 16, 2023 IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. PRESENT WERE: CHAIRMAN FOSTER CAMPBELL, VICE CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS, COMMISSIONER ERIC SKRMETTA, COMMISSIONER CRAIG GREENE, AND COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS.

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1 **TRANSCRIPT OF THE LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**
2 **BUSINESS AND EXECUTIVE OPEN SESSION HELD ON FEBRUARY 16,**
3 **2023 IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA. PRESENT WERE: CHAIRMAN**
4 **FOSTER CAMPBELL, VICE CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS,**
5 **COMMISSIONER ERIC SKRMETTA, COMMISSIONER CRAIG**
6 **GREENE, AND COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS.**

7 **CHAIRMAN FOSTER CAMPBELL:** We want to get started today. Everybody
8 have a seat, please. I know this will disappoint y'all, but we're going to try to go
9 through this agenda pretty quickly. We're having tornado warnings in north
10 Louisiana. And I always say we don't have any damage up there; I hope we don't
11 have any damage today, but it's bad weather. And we got some people that would
12 like to -- we're going to move some people up to speak early. So at this time, Mr.
13 Lewis, would you lead us in a prayer?

14 **[COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS LEADS IN PRAYER]**

15 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Greene, will you say the pledge?

16 **[COMMISSIONER CRAIG GREENE LEADS IN THE PLEDGE]**

17 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** We're going to move some things around. We have
18 some people from all over the state that want to be heard. First of all, I want to say
19 to the investor owned companies and co-ops, y'all do know that natural gas prices
20 are way down, y'all know that, don't you? It's \$2.50 now. So there was a lot of -
21 - we were making a lot of good excuses for you guys back when it was \$10. People
22 would call and say why is electricity so high, we could say well, the price on natural
23 gas is \$10. So y'all need to tighten your belts because the price on natural gas now

1 is \$2.50. It's a lot of difference. So we can't tell people that we got high utility
2 bills because of the price of natural gas. That's not true. I know it takes a while to
3 work through the system, but we certainly hope that rates are coming down, that
4 y'all are doing everything you can to -- everything you can to get the rates down.
5 Another thing I -- in the past, y'all have this in your booklet here, everybody has
6 this? You can look at all these companies we regulate. Beaugard's up to about
7 13.5 cents per kilowatt hour. DEMCO is 13.2 cents per kilowatt hour. Jeff Davis
8 is about 13 cents. So I mean, the average is a dollar -- it's about 12.6 cents, 13
9 cents, we're gradually moving up the price of electricity. I'm not saying it's all
10 your fault. I just want you to be aware of it. This is what the people pay every
11 month, and that's why we're here. So let's see if we can do everything we can to
12 reduce the price of electricity because it's a real burden on a lot of people, y'all all
13 know that. They're having a hard time paying their bills. I had a lawyer call me
14 yesterday from Monroe and he had a 700 square foot office and his bill was, I don't
15 know, \$600 or \$700 and he was thinking it was extremely high, so do I. But
16 anyway, do the best you can, cut all the costs you can, keep your service up, and
17 just remember the price of natural gas is not \$10 anymore. We can't make an
18 excuse for that. We going to take -- which one are we going to take first, Number
19 2? No, wait a minute.

20 **MS. KATHRYN BOWMAN:** So we're going to take Exhibit 10 up out of order
21 first and handle both of the presentations --

22 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Yeah.

23 **MS. BOWMAN:** -- at the beginning.

1 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay.

2 **MS. BOWMAN:** But we do have a couple of other Staff announcements, and I'm
3 not sure if any Commissioners have any announcements.

4 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Anybody have an announcement, anybody up here?

5 **COMMISSIONER CRAIG GREENE:** Oh, I have an announcement. I have an
6 announcement. I have a wonderful team and one of our team members is moving
7 on, Ms. Jacqueline Sanchez, if you want to raise your hand. It's been great working
8 with you and we look forward to working with you in the future and wish you the
9 best in your next endeavors. But you'll always be part of the PSC family and Team
10 Greene, so thank you.

11 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Francis.

12 **VICE CHAIRMAN MIKE FRANCIS:** Just remind everybody that April, you're
13 coming to Crowley. We're going to have our meeting in Crowley at the beautiful
14 opera house. Y'all are really going to enjoy that, so just can't wait for y'all to come.

15 **MS. BOWMAN:** And that B&E date is April 26th is when we'll be in Crowley.

16 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Last time we were in Crowley, Mr. Holloway was
17 there. But anyway, you're probably not interested with this, but anyway, I had a -
18 - I bought some Charolais Bulls over there, and Mr. Holloway said, Mr. Campbell,
19 I always knew you were full of bull, you know. So I brought them to the meeting,
20 and I had them in a trailer. I was going somewhere else. But anyway, I remember
21 it was a nice place. The venue is nice over there. A real old place and fixed up real
22 nice.

23 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Yeah.

1 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay. Anybody else got anything? Mr. Lewis, you
2 have anything to say? Mr. Skrmetta?

3 **COMMISSIONER ERIC SKRMETTA:** No, sir.

4 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Greene? Nobody?

5 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** No, sir.

6 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** All right. First.

7 **MS. BOWMAN:** We do have 14 agenda items, and there's a couple of
8 housekeeping. So Exhibit 8 is being pulled. It's my appreciation that the
9 Commission as a whole would like us to go out for an RFP instead of doing a
10 solicitation. So Staff will start working on that RFP and have that issued and
11 hopefully we can have a bid and a proposal for March's B&E. So Exhibit 8 is being
12 pulled. And then under Exhibit 10, there was a discussion with jurisdictional
13 electric and gas utilities regarding current natural gas prices and hedging, and that
14 is also being pulled.

15 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Exhibit 10 is the -- the first one taken up is Together
16 Louisiana; is that right?

17 **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY BRANDON FREY:** That's correct.

18 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes, sir. So if the folks for Together Louisiana would come up.
19 The microphones have a button to push for you to speak, please identify yourself
20 prior to speaking.

21 **SECRETARY FREY:** And then sign that white roster if you're going to speak.

22 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yeah. We have cards for them.

23 **SECRETARY FREY:** Oh, we have cards. Okay. Then just identify yourself.

1 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Jackson. Before we start, Mr. Jackson is a
2 preacher from Shreveport, former athlete, a hundred yard dash man when he
3 weighed about 130 pounds. But he's a good friend, and we're glad to have you
4 down here. It's always nice to see somebody from north Louisiana down here.

5 **DR. THERON JACKSON:** That's right.

6 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** So many times these people down here think we live
7 in south Arkansas, you know. I tell them -- people can't believe this -- I tell them,
8 I said, really, you know, it's closer to Broken Bow, Oklahoma from Shreveport than
9 it is Lafayette. People say you got -- Oklahoma. I said yeah, we're a 160 miles
10 from Broken Bow, Oklahoma. But anyway so much for geography, go ahead with
11 your presentation.

12 **DR. JACKSON:** Good morning, Chairman Campbell and members of the Public
13 Service Commission. My name is Theron Jackson. I am -- I have the privilege and
14 pleasure of serving as pastor of the Morning Star Baptist Church in Shreveport,
15 Louisiana. Interestingly enough, Mr. Campbell, I'm originally from Lake Charles,
16 but I've been in Shreveport for 15 years.

17 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** There you go. All right. That's District IV.

18 **DR. JACKSON:** So I'm a LaGrange High School graduate, and so I'm grateful
19 to just be here today.

20 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Lewis -- I was telling Mr. Lewis that he needs
21 to meet with you. I forgot to tell you he ran track at McNeese, didn't you?

22 **DR. JACKSON:** Louisiana Tech.

1 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Louisiana Tech, but anyway from Lake Charles. So
2 that's a good thing. Not too many of you guys here, you know, we don't need too
3 many, but this will be all right.

4 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** My wife is a graduate of LaGrange.

5 **DR. JACKSON:** Is that right?

6 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Yes.

7 **DR. JACKSON:** Well, you're blessed, I promise. Anyway, as a pastor of Morning
8 Star, we are a member of North Louisiana Interfaith and a member of Together
9 Louisiana. It is a network of over 300 congregations and community organizations
10 across the state of Louisiana. And Together Louisiana is a vehicle for ordinary
11 people, not appointed, not elected, just interested people to have the ability to
12 influence the decisions and systems that affect each of our lives. And so we'll be
13 presenting today about a strategy for grid resilience called Community Lighthouse
14 Project. I'm joined today by about 30 other Together Louisiana leaders and we've
15 got a group from Shreveport and Bossier. We have a group from Alexandria. We
16 have a group from New Orleans. We have group St. John and St. James. We have
17 a group from Pointe Coupee and Iberville, and I'm especially excited about the fact
18 as well we have a group from Lake Charles, but Lake Providence as well. And we
19 obviously have a delegation from right here in Baton Rouge, so we come from
20 different places, and we come from different traditions, but we share one thing in
21 common and that's real simple, that we think if you're going to complain about a
22 problem, you ought to have a solution to the problem and be willing to roll your
23 sleeves up to work out a workable solution and to spend all of our time, effort, and

1 energy working on that. So over the last 15 months, we've been learning about
2 resilience and distributed energy and batteries and energy transition and the
3 regulatory process and docket structure. We've created what we call in our group
4 civic academies to try to help the people who we represent and the constituencies
5 that we represent understand some of these sometimes difficult to understand
6 terminology. So we're here today, in short, not just to talk about what's already
7 happened wrong, but we really want to talk about what's happening right. We'll
8 start by hearing a few stories, just brief stories that we want to share with you about
9 why this issue of power outages means so much to us.

10 **MR. REGINALD VICKS:** Good morning, Public Service Commission. My
11 name is Reginald Vicks. I serve as the chief operations officer for an FQAC in
12 New Orleans called CrescentCare. And I'm here to speak to you today about our
13 story and what we're doing to find solutions. We're an FQAC providing healthcare
14 and wraparound services for community members who would have a limited to no
15 access to primary healthcare services in the New Orleans region. The genesis for
16 our participation in Community Lighthouse Initiative was triggered by
17 experiencing multiple disasters that resulted in significant barriers to care and
18 multiple disasters also inhibiting individuals to have access to lifesaving devices,
19 medications, and services. CrescentCare and our partner Avita Pharmacy, which is
20 our contract pharmacy partner, lost a total of \$1.5 million in products primarily
21 because these medications and products were sensitive to temperature variances
22 when we lost power and we could not power our building and our services. Clients
23 were unable to fill prescriptions, see their providers, charge cell phones as well as

1 access our food pantry. Keeping our clients out of emergency rooms and engaged
2 in preventive care in support of optimum wellness are the components of what an
3 FQAC is all about. We want to build resiliency to access energy that power our
4 operations and help us sustain services in the community. Our participation in this
5 project is essential to ensure that during a hurricane or a significant power outage,
6 which New Orleans actually ranks in the top five in the country related to that, to
7 be able to provide those services and keep our clinics and our operations going
8 during a disaster.

9 **MR. JAMES HIATT:** All right. Thank you. My name is James Hiatt, and I'm
10 from Lake Charles. Go Pokes. In 2020, we experienced storm after storm. We
11 had Hurricane Laura followed by Hurricane Delta followed in February of '21 by
12 Winter Storm Uri followed again by a random Monday in May we flooded and we
13 lost power. Some of these outages lasted for weeks and weeks and weeks. You
14 know, I think this is important to note that my mother at the time had COPD and
15 required oxygen. My kids were in school. I have a 7 and 15 and 13 year old. They
16 were unable to attend school because of these outages. Life was very difficult, and
17 these recovery times and what we could have used was some resiliency. These
18 continuous disruptions and the undependable power has left us vulnerable again
19 and again. Thank you.

20 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Let me ask a question if I could, really to Mr. Francis
21 and Mr. Lewis. Mr. Francis worked tirelessly to try to help y'all over there during
22 all the storms. How are we doing over there right now as far as the storms?

1 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** There's too many blue roofs still left and we're
2 gaining on it. We're resilient. This southwest Louisiana is tough. We'll get back,
3 but we still got a lot of problems, and hopefully there may be some way we could
4 help you. We're going to look at everything. Let me ask Brandon -- put you on
5 the spot just a minute. We have approved some generators for like, you know,
6 Walmarts and different grocery stores and things, when there's a hurricane, they're
7 able to still have power. Would these kind of facilities, would they qualify to be --
8 maybe have a generator and work in that same program?

9 **SECRETARY FREY:** So if I misstate something, whoever worked on the docket
10 can jump in, but you're referring to I believe the Power Through Program that
11 Entergy had?

12 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Yes, yes.

13 **SECRETARY FREY:** And initially, it was focused on natural gas generators, but
14 I believe it when we ultimately voted on it and expanded it to where it could include
15 solar as well. I would note, too, though there -- as part of the some of the federal
16 resilience dollars, myself and Noah, one of our attorneys, are on a joint group with
17 the Governor's office, Department of Natural Resources through their Department
18 of Energy and GOHSEP and there's also community hubs and resilience being
19 looked at available potential grant money there. So that's something that's going
20 to be coming in the future. But to your question, I believe that is correct, it could
21 apply to solar as well, and no one's shaking their head no at me so I believe that's
22 correct.

1 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I think it's possible that this might fit into the
2 plan where you could be helped to get -- have a generator there and possibly run
3 off the loop, have some benefits of the solar power. So there are a lot of moving
4 parts in this, but it sounds like it might be something that would fit in with what
5 we've already approved.

6 **MS. MADISON POCHE:** I'd also like to take a moment to speak about north
7 Louisiana because even though we do also get --

8 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Would you get a little closer?

9 **MS. POCHE:** Yes.

10 **MS. BOWMAN:** And would you please identify yourself for the record?

11 **MS. POCHE:** Yes. My name is --

12 **MS. BOWMAN:** I'm sorry to interrupt. Can everyone please silence their cell
13 phones? I would appreciate it. Thank you.

14 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Go ahead.

15 **MS. POCHE:** So hi, my name is Madison Poché. I'm the executive director of
16 the Highland Center in Shreveport, and we're also a member of the Together
17 Louisiana network. I'm here today because two years ago we lost power because
18 of a snow storm. In addition to having a kind of freak weather event impact most
19 of north of Louisiana, the city of Shreveport had so many pipes burst that we also
20 lost water to the whole city. So the first few day -- first few hours of a snow storm
21 are really fun, and then it gets really scary when you realize that you can see your
22 breath in your living room, that water's not coming on in the faucet, and that
23 everyone is snowed in. And so in our community on Facebook, we started getting,

1 like, cries for help, right, senior living apartments that hadn't had water for days, I
2 remember a veteran just needed his medicine, people who just wanted to get warm
3 for a few hours. And you know, in the midst of these kind of crazy days neighbors
4 stepped up and responded, so we started coordinating on social media. And from
5 sunrise to sunset, we had folks getting in trucks braving winter streets, we waited
6 in really long times that wrapped around blocks just to get a few bottles of water.
7 And we were begging elected officials for support but they also didn't necessarily
8 have answers. And I know at the end of this crazy week, my own neighbor, Mr.
9 Moe, who recently had a stroke, didn't have water and power the whole time. I
10 could have helped him if I had known, and I think there's a lot of Mr. Moes that we
11 think if we could build a better plan, we'd be able to help in these moments.

12 **DR. JACKSON:** Thank you, Madison. And finally via video, Ms. Cynthia
13 Coleman with Together New Orleans, who very much wanted to be here in person
14 but is visiting her 94-year-old grandmother out of town couldn't be here, has a brief
15 story that we want to share as our final story.

16 [Video played.]

17 **DR. JACKSON:** Well, as you see, these stories are real and about real people. In
18 February 2021 -- I mean, excuse me, in August 2020, as you heard referred to
19 earlier, 31 people died in Hurricane Laura, but 19 of those deaths were caused by
20 long duration of power outage. In February 2021, right next door in Texas 246
21 people died in that Winter Storm Uri from long duration outage. In August 2021,
22 36 people died here in Louisiana from Hurricane Ida. Thirty of those 36 deaths
23 were from long duration power outages. Power outages are now the leading cause

1 of death from disaster in Louisiana and across this Gulf Coast. This problem has
2 been getting worse over the last two decades despite the fact that we're spending
3 more money on it. Community Lighthouse is seeking to make a contribution to this
4 problem by implementing, at scale, one big idea. We need distributed solar and
5 battery storage to become a central part of our resilience strategy. Now, saying it
6 like that sounds a little technical for, you know, sometimes our folks so here's how
7 we've been explaining it. You remember -- I know growing up in Lake Charles we
8 had Christmas lights on the house. These old school Christmas lights that were
9 strung up, the issue was when one bulb went out, all the string of lights went out.
10 And that was frustrating, you know. You got to spend hours finding the bad bulb.
11 And if you change that and you wrap the line around the house or the tree again,
12 another one goes out, you got to do the whole thing all over again. So well, I'm
13 saying this because much of our electricity system still operates like strands of old
14 Christmas lights, in the sense that that -- we saw this after Hurricane Ida, for
15 example, where places hundreds of miles away from where the storm hit faced
16 week long outages because the transmission system had gone down. For a long
17 time, our electricity system was set up this way because that was the technology
18 that was available to us, long wires strung up on poles for thousands of miles to
19 take electricity from where it's produced to ultimately where it's consumed. It may
20 have once, I think, been the case that that was the only technology we had, but that's
21 not the case today. We now have technology that allows decentralized solar with
22 large battery capacity, and that means we can complement the existing grid with
23 resilience that's comparable to new Christmas lights, if you will. When one bulb

1 goes out, it's still -- the rest of them are still shining. So I wanted to share with you,
2 briefly, a two minute video; it talks a little bit about our strategy.

3 [Video played.]

4 **DR. JACKSON:** So Community Lighthouse has really four components: The
5 grid resilience we talked about, disaster response operating at a neighborhood level,
6 investing in renewable energy, and perhaps as important as any of that, creating
7 good paying jobs for local residents as well. So there's a workforce component as
8 well. Each lighthouse will provide as well food and water, charging stations,
9 internet access, cooling or heating centers, and the personal battery exchange as
10 well. So every lighthouse builds and trains a team of its members to develop an
11 action plan and being boots on the ground. So we all have like what we like to call
12 a turf, and the response team can canvas that turf in short order when disaster
13 strikes. Calls or visits -- we will call and visit everyone who is in our "turf." And
14 so just wanted to share with you a little bit about the gist of the concept. Mr. Moses.

15 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Skrmetta.

16 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Just wanted to point out to you just a
17 jurisdictional component, Pastor, that the Public Service Commission regulates the
18 utilities in the state of Louisiana that are nonmunicipal and also we do not regulate
19 the City of New Orleans. So it's going to be to your benefit to also approach City
20 Council of New Orleans and all non-jurisdictional utilities, such as LUS and other
21 folks that we don't have any jurisdictional component for. So I noticed a lot of
22 what you do is more relegated to city utilities than -- stuff we actually don't cover,
23 so I wanted to make sure you're aware of that.

1 **DR. JACKSON:** Thank you for that [INAUDIBLE], Commissioner. I think it
2 would be good to note that the two models that we have that are currently up -- one
3 that's up and one that's close up happen to be in the City of New Orleans.

4 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Yeah, I'm aware. I'm aware.

5 **DR. JACKSON:** So that's kind of what we modeled this approach around the state
6 with kind of the conversations that have been having the intervention in the docket
7 in the City Council of New Orleans kind of mirroring that process to even come
8 here to talk with you all as well. So thank you so much.

9 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Greene.

10 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Thanks for an excellent presentation, and I think
11 you hit on something that I think is critical that the people closest to the problem
12 are usually the ones that come up with the best solutions. And a lot of people come
13 to us with hey, this is a problem. Y'all come with here's a solution. And everything
14 from funding to implementation, and so I applaud that. And I think that to solve a
15 vast number of our community problems, it has to come -- the solutions have to
16 come from the community. I also want to point out that since we met, Wall Street
17 Journal from three days ago, \$10 billion program for energy subsidies set to be
18 rolled out by the Treasury Department, so that's three days fresh off the press. And
19 so y'all seem to be very aggressive at helping to procure those funds and I just want
20 to say keep it up. Y'all are doing a great job. Thank you.

21 **MR. PIERRE MOSES:** The vision -- my name is Pierre Moses --

22 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Why don't you -- can you identify yourself?

1 **MR. MOSES:** Sure. My name is Pierre Moses. I'm the technical lead of the
2 Community Lighthouse program. The vision is to create a distributed community
3 based network of solar-plus-storage resilience hubs, where the value of the whole
4 network is greater than the sum of its parts. Individual lighthouses will benefit from
5 network-wide coordination, communication, resiliency, and redundant layers of
6 disaster response. At a minimum, each lighthouse will have three key pieces of
7 technology: Onsite solar energy production, rechargeable battery energy storage
8 systems, and also user friendly load management systems. The renewable energy
9 microgrids will all have the ability to disconnect from the utility grid and safely
10 operate as an independent islandable backup power source. These are year-round
11 energy assets. Energy savings when the grid is up, backup power when the grid is
12 down, and zero emissions from end to end. Our goal is to make behind the meter
13 resilience hubs a material resource in Louisiana's resilience planning. We're
14 targeting 250 to 300 community lighthouses statewide, and we've already
15 identified more than a hundred sites that include Shreveport, Lake Charles, New
16 Orleans, Alexandria, and right here in Baton Rouge. We've made notable progress
17 in New Orleans with some funding, but we have a lot of work to go. We've
18 conducted thorough site assessments at many of the identified locations, and each
19 and every lighthouse is located at a community or faith based institution with a
20 proven culture of providing community service in times of need. Every region of
21 our state has its own flavor of power outages, and whether its hurricanes or winter
22 storms, community lighthouses are deliberately designed as flexible, renewable
23 energy resources that will provide neighborhood level resiliency services regardless

1 of the unique power reliability challenges that each of us will undoubtedly
2 experience in the future. Thank you.

3 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I want to -- Reverend Jackson, I know we live in the
4 same place. What about Ouachita?

5 **DR. JACKSON:** They're a part of it as well. Again, we're talking about pilot
6 phasing and then growing the network wider so.

7 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay. I know you're going to take care of us in
8 north Louisiana. I just see Caddo; that's where you live.

9 **DR. JACKSON:** Listen, I want you to know --

10 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I'm worried about Monroe.

11 **DR. JACKSON:** East Carroll is actively a part of it even as we speak
12 [INAUDIBLE].

13 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Oh, that's right. I see some of them back there from
14 Lake Providence.

15 **DR. JACKSON:** That's right.

16 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** That's a good deal. But I -- there's a lot of folks
17 that live in Monroe, in that area.

18 **DR. JACKSON:** Yes, sir.

19 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I'm trying to -- I represent everybody up there, so
20 I'm trying to help out.

21 **DR. JACKSON:** Absolutely.

22 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay. Go ahead.

1 **MR. JEREMY TWITCHELL:** Good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners.
2 My name is Jeremy Twitchell. I'm from the Pacific Northwest National
3 Laboratory. Just want to say prior to joining the lab, I worked for several years at
4 the utility commission in Washington State, so I feel like I'm with my people and
5 I appreciate the opportunity to be here to speak to y'all. So the Department of
6 Energy funds us to provide technical assistance to states on energy storage related
7 issues, that's objective technical assistance to utility commissions, the state energy
8 offices, to help them understand how storage fits into their plans and the benefits
9 that it can provide. So as an aside, if there's anything that we can ever do to support
10 you or your Staff, please let us know. But we recognized a couple years ago that
11 we were missing a part of the puzzle, right. There's this growing conversation in
12 the U.S. that as we're investing this new generation technology, as we're trying to
13 build a more resilient system, how can we do that in a way that everyone benefits
14 from these investments. So we put together this new program, Energy Storage for
15 Social Equity, so that we could understand, you know, what are these community
16 needs that are emerging around the country? How can we use energy storage?
17 Because we can scale it down and we can put it next to people in the community to
18 make sure those benefits are flowing to the community. What are those intersection
19 points? What are those needs, how can storage help? We're working with Together
20 New Orleans and the thing that really drew us to that project was first it was an
21 innovative model to resilience that we felt that if we could help them flush it out
22 and understand it, it could be replicated elsewhere in the country and the world.
23 We were also really impressed that you already had this community coming

1 together behind this idea. We wanted to learn from them about how you build that
2 community consistent -- that community consensus and how you bring people
3 together. So one of the things they asked us to do was to help them understand
4 what is the value proposition of these types of investments that we're talking about.
5 How can they benefit the grid? How can they be fairly compensated for the grid
6 benefits that they provide to help pay for the systems? And so we've been looking
7 at the shared investment model that you see there. And if we can just go ahead and
8 step through the -- there's a couple of animations there. The idea here is that all
9 customers pay into this incentive pool, and then the program manager, whether
10 that's a utility or a state, is providing those incentives for participating customers
11 to install energy storage. Now, those participating customers get the benefits of,
12 you know, bill savings if they have some kind of time of use rate, they get backup
13 power when the grid goes down, and in return for that incentive they yield control
14 back to that utility. So that when the grid is up 99 percent of the time, the utility is
15 using those assets in a way that's benefiting the grid, daily peak shaving, deferring
16 transmission needs, managing congestion on the system, and so we've been
17 exploring this issue. You can see a link to a paper there if you're interested. We
18 were looking at how can you design these programs in a way that you're allowing
19 low and moderate income customers to participate and get those benefits but we're
20 holding ratepayers harmless, we're effectively saying we're not asking ratepayers
21 to pay more as we design the program in that way. What you see here is a summary
22 of the new clean energy investment credit, which I believe Commissioner Greene
23 was referring to a minute ago. If you'll just look at that first row, we're talking

1 about projects that are less than a megawatt for these community lighthouses. You
2 can see there that you're basically guaranteed a 30 percent tax credit on a system
3 like that depending on how it's configured and where it's set up that can get you up
4 to 70 percent. So there's a lot of moving pieces right now, but the bottom line is
5 between these federal dollars that are available and ratepayer dollars that can be
6 available to pay customers for these assets based on their grid value. These can be
7 a low cost investment that allow customers to benefit the grid while also achieving
8 their resilience and their equity objectives. Thank you.

9 **DR. JACKSON:** So Jeremy and --

10 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Just a second, please.

11 **DR. JACKSON:** Yeah, sure.

12 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay.

13 **DR. JACKSON:** So Jeremy and his colleagues at the PNNL lab and the
14 Department of Energy have been an extraordinary resource as you can see to us
15 helping making this vision a reality, and in that vein, we have the pleasure of
16 sharing a progress update with you, if you will. Construction is now complete on
17 the first two community lighthouses, and construction is nearly complete on the
18 third site, the CrescentCare Clinic. Its solar panels are fully installed and after its
19 battery is delivered next month, it will be up and running as well. So now 3 down,
20 297 left to go. To conclude, I'd like to return to the question of why we're here
21 today, and we think that the strategy we've shared with you today has a greater
22 potential than a few dozen sites across the state, quite frankly. We think community
23 lighthouses should be embedded into the way our electrical grid is built and the way

1 it operates. About nine months ago, a local organization in New Orleans, Together
2 New Orleans, intervened in that city council's grid hardening and resilience docket.
3 It's been a very productive process, and my colleagues there without, you know,
4 counting our chickens before they hatch, feel hopeful about that particular docket.
5 And if it supports what Together New Orleans is proposing, it will create a policy
6 mechanism to fund the expansion of community lighthouses in New Orleans to 86
7 locations, serving every single neighborhood in the city of New Orleans and at
8 about 1 percent of the cost of the grid hardening that's being proposed even right
9 now. So community lighthouse isn't just a New Orleans strategy anymore; it's now
10 going statewide. Right in my own parish as I shared with Chairman Campbell a
11 few weeks, our parish commission is proposing to allocate \$500,000 to start a pilot
12 in two locations in our city, and I want to thank you, Commissioner Campbell, for
13 helping us to make that happen as well. Lake Charles has a pilot now, Alexandria,
14 the River Parishes, and Baton Rouge as well. Later this week, Together Louisiana
15 will be filing a request to intervene in PSC -- in your resilience docket so that we
16 can take full part in creating a plan on how this strategy can be part of resilience in
17 every community in the state of Louisiana. So we look forward to working with
18 you, to learning from you. And we think that when the grass roots joins hands with
19 the regulators, we can stop waiting around for somebody else to make something
20 happen and start building a energy future that we need together, and we believe that
21 we are, in fact, better together. So thank you so much for all this time in allowing
22 us to share this strategy with you. I hope we've been able to make it clear, but if

1 you have any questions, certainly we're interested in trying to entertain those if we
2 can.

3 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Francis.

4 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Thank you, Reverend. I like the idea of the
5 church [INAUDIBLE] --

6 **MS. BOWMAN:** His mic, Commissioner.

7 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. You got me now? Okay.

8 **MS. BOWMAN:** Gotcha.

9 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I'm a member of a church family in Lafayette
10 called The Bayou, and we got like a \$15 million building program going on right
11 now. And we're always helping folks through these storms and things. I'm going
12 to go back and ask if we got some generators in there, too. One of the questions I
13 was wondering, our Commission is -- one of our challenges is to have, you know,
14 cost effective power, and we do that. And if the lights go out during a storm, you're
15 going to have battery power. How long will that batter power last at midnight when
16 the sun's not shining? That would be a question I would ask. How long would the
17 batteries last?

18 **MR. MOSES:** The key piece of technology that I think is arguably more important
19 than solar generation or the batteries themselves is the load management. The
20 ability to designate critical loads within your facility that you keep up and running,
21 refrigeration, freezers, some limited cooling in portions of the building, not -- if you
22 have a church with a large sanctuary, maybe you're not cooling the large sanctuary,
23 but you're cooling a few classrooms and a commercial kitchen or a parish hall.

1 Having these dedicated critical loads allows you to conserve your fuel supply,
2 which in this case is your state of charge of your battery system. So as long as a
3 user has the ability to be aware of and conscious of and manage their loads that
4 they're powering by a battery, the duration of the battery system is indefinite. As
5 long as the sun is coming up the next day and the batteries are still operating and
6 you can manage your loads, that type of training and sort of operational awareness
7 makes these systems durable for days if not weeks on end.

8 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Well, during these storms, you'll have a lot of
9 rain and cloudy weather and, you know, during the night time just -- I was just
10 wondering how long would the battery hold up. And the second thing to follow up
11 with that is have you compared a natural gas generator, the cost and the efficiency
12 to these -- to the solar, would be something -- a question that anyone would want
13 to ask but --

14 **MR. MOSES:** We have.

15 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Moving on from that, Reverend, the --
16 man, if everybody tithed and went to church regularly, the church is there to try to
17 help people understand they don't want to die and go to hell, you know, that's our
18 main message. And the second one was let's keep the electricity going during these
19 storms, and I think we're all for that, you know. We just need to tell them, you
20 need to go to church and pay your tithe, you know. If everybody did that we
21 wouldn't even be here worrying about this. We'd already have generators at every
22 church, you know, so.

1 **DR. JACKSON:** So, you know, one of the things, Commissioner, I'll say maybe
2 besides amen --

3 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Yes.

4 **DR. JACKSON:** -- is that, you know, there's been a great fear in our communities.
5 You heard the last story that was told, there was a fear about generators right now
6 in our communities because there are people -- I have a family in Lake Charles who
7 I was friends with, a retired postman and two of the women in his family who died
8 because of a generator. And obviously, it's the misuse of the -- perhaps the
9 ignorance of the user was just trying to get electricity, but they make themselves
10 more vulnerable trying to do it. And what has happened either, is that we perpetuate
11 that and more people do die or people are afraid of that and don't even use anything.
12 And so what we think with the solar option is that it also will allow us to allay the
13 fears of many people who still have real legitimate issues around what's happening
14 with gas generators.

15 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Well, I'd think about you as a reverend over the
16 church, you would make sure that the -- you knew about all the safety rules and
17 [INAUDIBLE] electricity, so my question was how do you compare a natural gas
18 generator to compare to a solar power and battery and so and what's the cost
19 difference and -- I know I don't have to worry about the sunshine, and if I got a gas
20 generator running out there, that's just a common sensical redneck thing, we --
21 some of us from north Louisiana say, okay. I'm through. All right.

22 **MR. MOSES:** One distinct difference between natural gas generators and solar
23 and storage is how often they're used. Solar and batteries are operating day in, day

1 out. They pay for themselves over time. Gas generators also provide backup
2 power. For the vast majority of the time, they are sitting idle, off, maybe running
3 once a month for maintenance purposes. So they are in some ways a sum cost.
4 Yes, they provide that hard-to-quantify value of resiliency, how much do you value
5 having power during an outage. Solar and batteries can provide that similar value
6 proposition in addition to providing energy savings and being adaptive to time-of-
7 use rates and other regulatory mechanisms that will emerge over time. So there --
8 the solar and storage assets are a bit more flexible in terms of how often they're
9 used and what their, kind of, full-breath value proposition is.

10 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Anybody else got any questions? You have
11 anything to say? Mr. Lewis? You don't have anything?

12 **COMMISSIONER DAVANTE LEWIS:** [INAUDIBLE], Yes, sir. Thank you.
13 I first want to thank all of you for the work. I mean, I think the interesting proposal
14 here that we're talking about is how community plays a role in keeping lights on,
15 right. I mean, I think often times we think just about the distribution of the
16 individual household or the community facility using the power, but how we can
17 also power the grid ourselves and this cross-applicable relationship that I think we
18 are starting to see and other states have been doing, had a very interesting
19 conversation with the state of Michigan just this past week about that. So I wanted
20 to -- I want to applaud you for this, but I think it's important that we start to shape
21 how technology works. I mean, I think the interesting thing about community solar
22 and to Commission Francis' point is we know rooftop solar right now may not be
23 as affordable, especially to low income individuals, and the vast majority of you

1 make up my district and we know that. And so where community solar steps into
2 is as the world is evolving, allows us to keep that same great technology but in an
3 affordable way that now the community is benefitting from. And so I think this is
4 a great proposal that we can start to look at. I think we're going to see a significant
5 opportunity through the Green Bank and through IRA to make significant
6 investments that are partnering with local entities with our investor owned utilities
7 as well, making this kind of a holistic approach, right. And I think that is the --
8 that's the beauty of this, is this is not a one size fit all, it's not a complete changing
9 of the guard, but it's how do we all contribute together to ensure that we have a
10 more resilient system because we know the storms are not getting weaker, they're
11 getting stronger, which means our response has to match the time that we're at.
12 And so I look forward to continuing working with you all on this proposal,
13 hopefully that we can get those pilots up and running in more areas and really start
14 to have a conversation about how we take this entirety of solar for all, in my view,
15 together. So I just wanted to thank you all and at least get that on the record. So
16 thank you.

17 **DR. JACKSON:** Yes, Commissioner. Thank you so much for that comment. I
18 want to say to that, that I think you're exactly right, that sometimes there are issues
19 of equity based on what folks can afford, the kind of technology that people can
20 afford. I think one of the things for us is not -- for me, let me say, there's an issue
21 of both cost and trust. And so while there are some issues with lower income folks
22 say getting solar may be a cost issue, but I think there's also a trust issue. So I think
23 when these trusted institutions show that it is -- it works, you know, it reminds me

1 of that old song in the church, “Give me that old time religion.” And there was a
2 verse in there that said if it was good enough for grandma, it’s good enough for me,
3 and I think in trusting institutions, if people find that it’s good enough for the
4 church, it’s good enough for this community center, then it’s good enough for me,
5 and there’s a trust issue where now people begin to see solar as a legitimate
6 alternative in their neighborhoods and at their own homes and we can move this
7 along, but I think these become the beginning of the trust-busting scenario.

8 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Absolutely. I think that’s a point well taken, and
9 it’s an important point. And I think that’s what the beauty of what you’ve proposed,
10 is it is immediate storm response, so as power goes out, people have places where
11 they can be and not be afraid of being in the dark, right, and I think you’re right, it
12 builds that trust because now I’m seeing an operation not just as kind of new
13 technology that has been talked about, that everybody’s raving about, but it’s
14 actually now in application in my real life, I’m seeking the benefits of it which now
15 makes me more acceptable to the changing technology that is moving the market
16 over the next few years, so thank you.

17 **DR. JACKSON:** I said with Commissioner Campbell what I did with the mayor
18 of our city and our commission that we’ve been talking a lot about storms, we’ve
19 talked about New Orleans. In the area where our church is, there’s storms that
20 happen -- we serve people every day, and there’s storms that happen with no wind,
21 no water, there’s somebody who’s lights is out in our community right now, has
22 nothing to do -- they’re in an economic storm and we still service them. These
23 lighthouses will continue to do that kind of work as well for people in our

1 communities. We saw when the Coronavirus hit and COVID happened and people
2 in our community didn't have fiber, no Wi-Fi, they'd drive into our parking lot just
3 so the kids could do their homework on an iPad, you know, because they didn't
4 have Wi-Fi. We're accustomed to being in the middle of solutions and trying to
5 help people who cannot help themselves as much as, you know, they may even
6 want to, they lack that capacity, so this gives us the ability to continue to expand
7 the capacity to serve and help folks in our community, so thank y'all for that.

8 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** You know, it's a new day in Louisiana, though, I
9 was just thinking about it. When Katrina hit, I wasn't there, and people like Eric
10 and, at that time, Lambert Boissiere, suffered, went through Katrina. I remember I
11 went to Arkansas when they had -- Katrina hit, you know, and it was a lot of people
12 in Arkansas that was from New Orleans. So I was talking to them, we never
13 realized the devastation until you started seeing the pictures about the Superdome
14 and all and people were dying. Then after that storm, the storms just kept coming
15 and coming and coming, so I think this is -- you're right on line now, you've got
16 people's attention because we've got to do something. That's not just coincidental
17 that we just had these things come, come, come, and come and its devastating and
18 people are out electricity. What the lady said from Shreveport, the first night is all
19 right with no lights, you know, it's sort of fun, really, you know, you cook on the
20 stove or whatever it's cool. We have lights out because of ice, you got a fireplace,
21 you're okay for a day or two, but then you've got to take a bath and it's not too
22 good and then people's tempers get short and they want action and things don't just
23 happen like that. So the idea of coming up with this is proactive, it's good, it's

1 good common sense, good thinking because we can help people prepare for things
2 coming down the road, and they're coming, they're coming. Thank y'all. Is that
3 it? Okay. Thank you so much. Thank you for coming.

4 **DR. JACKSON:** Thank you.

5 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Nice seeing you.

6 **SECRETARY FREY:** And as she's handing out a copy of the presentation, we
7 have an electronic copy of that as well, so that'll be available on the website under
8 meeting materials, like we normally put up there. So if anyone is looking for a
9 copy of that, it'll be up there.

10 **MS. BOWMAN:** And thank you guys. There is one more presentation we're
11 going to go ahead and get through and its presentation by the American Sugar Cane
12 League regarding solar development and agricultural issues. Same thing, please --

13 **MR. JIM SIMÓN:** I need some technical help [INAUDIBLE].

14 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes. And just whenever you're ready, hit the button, make sure
15 the light is on green, and introduce yourself for the record. Thank you.

16 **MR. SIMÓN:** Good morning. I'm Jim Simón with the American Sugar Cane
17 League. And just a bit about the league, while we call ourselves the American
18 Sugar Cane League, we actually only represent Louisiana sugarcane farmers.
19 We're called the American Sugar Cane League because in 1922, when we were
20 formed, Louisiana was America's only sugarcane producing state, hence the
21 American Sugar Cane League. I'm a lifelong resident of Louisiana; I live in New
22 Iberia. I've always been involved in agriculture. My father was raised on a
23 sugarcane farm and my mother was raised on a rice farm in Evangeline Parish. So

1 agriculture production has always been near and dear to our hearts, and I'm really
2 proud and pleased to be able to represent our 227 year old Louisiana sugar industry.
3 So I'll try to be brief and move through things quite quickly. So what you folks are
4 looking at, contrary to what some people call it, this is a solar farm. We take the
5 sun's energy and we convert it into energy in the form of two things. We convert
6 it into sugar, which is a fuel that's used to fuel our bodies, and then additional, we
7 convert it into bagasse, which is the pulp in the sugarcane. That pulp is used as
8 energy to run our mills. So we've been green for a couple of hundred years,
9 probably before green was cool, and we're green and getting greener. We don't
10 call this a solar farm, we call this a solar field, as a farm is where something is
11 grown, so we refer to this as a solar field and the prior one a solar farm. So let's go
12 over some information with regards to our industry. Before I do that, I would just
13 like to run through the districts that you all represent and give you some idea of
14 sugarcane production in each of your districts. Commissioner Campbell, you have
15 a little bit of cane in your district in Concordia Parish, in the southern tip of
16 Concordia, a couple hundred acres. Commissioner Lewis, all along the river, we
17 figure that you've got probably 15 percent of our sugarcane acreage in the state,
18 somewhere around there. Commissioner Skrmetta, you've got just a tad, I think, in
19 lower St. Charles Parish, a couple hundred acres there. Commissioner Francis,
20 you've probably got about 30 percent of Louisiana sugarcane acreage in your
21 district. And Commissioner Greene, we figure you've got about 50 to 60 percent
22 of Louisiana's sugarcane industry in your district. So a look at the industry
23 overview and what sugarcane means to our state. So we provide 17,000 direct and

1 indirect jobs. We have a \$3 billion economic impact. There are 450 cane farming
2 families in Louisiana. Sugarcane is processed at the 11 raw sugar mills in
3 Louisiana, so we take sugarcane and make raw sugar with it. That's a product very
4 similar to sugar in the raw, and after that, it's sent to a refinery where it's converted
5 into white table sugar. This past year, we harvested cane on some 475,000 acres.
6 And if you do the math on those 17,000 jobs and that 475,000 acres, every 28 acres
7 of sugarcane in Louisiana supports one Louisiana job, so we're critically important
8 to the state and primarily in the small rural areas where sugarcane is grown and
9 processed. We're, in essence, tenant farmers. We rent the majority of our land,
10 some 75 percent of the land that -- where sugarcane is produced is rented, so we
11 farm at the pleasure of the landowner, and we understand that. Let's be perfectly
12 clear. In our discussions, the American Sugar Cane League has always fought for
13 landowner rights and we think that landowners, within reason, should have the right
14 to do with their property as they see fit, as long as it doesn't detrimentally impact
15 neighbors and those kinds of things. We are not opposed at all to solar production.
16 We're here to discuss that a bit today. But we want our state and local elected
17 officials to be educated as to sugarcane and agriculture in general and the potential
18 impacts that solar has on agricultural interests. So let's talk a bit about tax
19 incentives. And as we appreciate tax incentives, they're designed to create jobs.
20 And what puzzles us is that there's a potential that tax incentives could be used to
21 eliminate jobs, and we think that solar does have a potential, if not done right, to
22 eliminate jobs. I'll move right to the meat of how this might happen. So this is a
23 map of land use in Louisiana, and you can see the purple areas, if I can get this

1 cursor to -- here we go -- the purple areas here, all the purple is where sugarcane is
2 grown in the state. The map cuts off a little bit of the northern reaches of sugarcane
3 production, but you can see where sugarcane is primarily grown, along the ridges
4 of Bayou Teche, the river, and Bayou Lafourche, and then these small little ridges
5 here to the south. So last month, you had a speaker that came before you, I think
6 Dr. Chambers from UL Lafayette, and I thought -- I watched his presentation. I
7 thought Dr. Chambers did a pretty good job of laying out solar, and he mentioned
8 a number of concerns. And one thing he mentioned was that the state has about
9 eight million acres of sugarcane -- of agriculture land and mentioned that he thought
10 about 49,000 acres of agriculture land would be consumed in solar production, and
11 that's 6/10^{ths} of one percent, which doesn't seem to be significant, but let's talk
12 specifically about how small acreages of sugarcane land converted into solar can
13 have a detrimental impact, primarily in these areas along Bayou Lafourche and
14 Bayou Teche and the river. So we have 11 raw mills, as I mentioned. One mill
15 needs about 25,000 acres to support it, so you have to get to a critical mass. You've
16 got to be able to move enough sugarcane through that mill to be able to use that
17 asset up as much as you can, 25,000 to 30,000 acres. So if a solar operation comes
18 in and takes 2,500 or 5,000 acres in this area along Bayou Lafourche, there are three
19 mills right through here, that would take potentially 20 percent of the acreage away
20 from that mill and that makes that mill no longer viable, it doesn't have the critical
21 mass. And so you may say, well, why don't you just grow the cane somewhere
22 else? And that simply, in that area along Bayou Lafourche, there's no other
23 available area around there to grow sugarcane. You'll see sparsely through here

1 some little yellow dots. Those dots are pasture lands, and those pasture lands are
2 in pasture because they're not suitable for cane. They're probably too low and wet
3 to support cane growth. So that's critically important. You know, if you put 2,800
4 acres in that area, keeping in mind that 28 acres supports one Louisiana job, 2,800
5 acres of solar in these critical areas could eliminate 100 jobs in these areas. So that
6 gives you some idea as to the sensitivity of solar and how it can impact sugarcane
7 production. So, you know, we're -- as I said, we're not at all opposed to solar, but
8 it needs to be done right. Now, I know that you all have a lot of information thrown
9 at you from stakeholders and constituents and folks like myself. And if I could just
10 leave you and wrap up with one thing, I know your time is precious and you're
11 trying to get your schedule done, I would just say this: You know, our forefathers
12 burdened us, our generation, with some 3,000 derelict oil wells and that's because
13 our forefathers didn't appropriately plan for energy production and specifically oil
14 well production. And I just ask that if there's one thing I leave you, let's not make
15 that same mistake with solar. Let's do solar right, Louisiana. Thank you.

16 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I've got a question.

17 **MR. SIMÓN:** Sure.

18 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I like what you said. You said most of the land that
19 they grow sugarcane on is leased, rented.

20 **MR. SIMÓN:** Correct.

21 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** And you said you believed in the landowner's right
22 to do what he wanted to with his land.

23 **MR. SIMÓN:** That's correct.

1 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** That's good. That's the way it ought to be. How
2 much do they -- if I'm a sugarcane farmer, how much do I pay per acre?

3 **MR. SIMÓN:** The rent's probably anywhere from 100 bucks to 200 bucks. And
4 I know that solar, we can't compete with solar in that fashion. And so the questions
5 is, is should we use tax incentives to supplement that income and potentially move
6 jobs away or eliminate jobs because of the use of tax incentives. So we understand
7 that we can't compete and we won't compete and our growers will lose land. You
8 know, if that farmers -- last week, Mr. Chambers said that there's a potential that a
9 tenant farmer can't match that rent, and he can't, and so be it. But using tax
10 incentives to supplant or to improve returns is something that we're concerned with
11 and we think needs to be looked at with a keen eye.

12 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** You know, people in the delta, up and down the
13 delta, and in the Red River bottom, up there where I live --

14 **MR. SIMÓN:** Correct.

15 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** -- they share the rent, you know what I mean, on 30
16 percent or 40 percent or whatever. You don't do that here with sugarcane?

17 **MR. SIMÓN:** Yeah, we do. We share rent. We share rent. Most rent is shared
18 at like a fifth or a sixth. You're talking about the tenant farmer? Yes, they're
19 sharecroppers and they share rent. They do do some cash rent, so there's cash rent
20 that may be 100 bucks an acre, up to 200 bucks an acre, just depending upon the
21 quality of the land. And then we also share rent, anywhere from 12 ½ percent,
22 maybe up to 25 percent based upon the quality of the land and the closeness of that
23 land to the milling operations. Sugarcane is quite unique and different from other

1 crops. When we cut sugarcane, we've got to process it within 24 hours. Corn,
2 beans, rice, that stuff can be harvested and put in a silo and then shipped to market
3 later. So sugarcane's just -- it's very unique, that's why we employ so many people
4 is because we're dealing with a lot of material and we've got to get it processed
5 immediately.

6 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** You know, I'm surprised that the rent is so cheap
7 because I know -- the sugarcane people I know are prosperous, so how do you rent
8 land so cheap?

9 **MR. SIMÓN:** Well, sugarcane's really -- a really expensive crop to grow. So,
10 you know, on an acre of land, we may generate \$2,500, \$3,000 in revenue. Now,
11 remember that 40 percent of that revenue goes to the mill, so that's how the mill
12 gets paid for processing. Okay. Then after that share is taken away, the landowner
13 gets 20 percent of that remaining portion. So the farmer is only left with maybe 50
14 percent of the revenue off of that acre. So when you see a load of cane going to a
15 sugar mill, half of that truck is for the sugar mill and the landowner, and the cane
16 farmer gets the back half to make his operation work. And sugarcane, it's a good
17 crop and it's an important crop to us. It's a valuable crop and we're profitable.

18 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** What's the price of sugar today?

19 **MR. SIMÓN:** About 35 cents a pound.

20 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** What has it been last year and the year before and
21 all that?

22 **MR. SIMÓN:** Probably -- last year was about 32 cents, so we're getting a good
23 price this year, but we just dealt with a freeze that took out about 10 percent of our

1 crop. So it's a good crop; it's a profitable crop. You know, you don't grow
2 sugarcane in Louisiana for 220 years just by breaking even or losing money. We
3 make money in sugar and we share that with the 17,000 jobs that we support.

4 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Is there any -- you're talking about the land that
5 people are renting, you said 70 percent of it is rented?

6 **MR. SIMÓN:** Yes, sir.

7 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** And I'm just -- you're explaining it, but I'm -- some
8 of this land is worth \$10,000 an acre, \$8,000, \$10,000 an acre and it's only bringing
9 \$100 to rent?

10 **MR. SIMÓN:** Not -- probably those lands are probably some of the better lands,
11 it may be up to \$250. Yes. And I don't -- you know, cane land values I've been
12 hearing about are more in the range \$5,000, \$6,000 an acre. You know, if you get
13 some really prime land that may have potential for commercial development,
14 maybe you get up to 10,000 an acre.

15 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I was just wondering, whoever owns the land, if it's
16 worth \$5,000, \$6,000 an acre, \$100 is not much rent.

17 **MR. SIMÓN:** No, it's -- well, that's the going rate. I mean, that's what the market
18 bears. And at that rate, we certainly can't compete with solar. But if a landowner,
19 once again, takes that acreage out of commerce and we provide tax incentives to
20 help him do that, then in essence we're providing tax incentives that could eliminate
21 jobs. And, once again, I state that we do not oppose solar, but we need to be well
22 educated. I know the Department of Natural Resources is in the midst of
23 promulgating rules on solar, and I just encourage elected leaders and folks like

1 myself to be smart with solar and let's do it right. Let's not leave ourselves in the
2 same position that our forefathers left us in where we're dealing with 3,000 derelict
3 oil wells, so let's do it right, Louisiana.

4 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Well, up in north Louisiana, we have a lot of big
5 farmers, some farm 10,000 acres, 5,000 acres, 3,000 acres. The only complaints
6 I'm getting from farmers up there are people who didn't get a solar farm. The one
7 who --

8 **MR. SIMÓN:** Yeah.

9 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** The neighbor got 1,000 acres or 500 acres.

10 **MR. SIMÓN:** Right, right.

11 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** The only person is mad is the one who didn't get the
12 solar farm.

13 **MR. SIMÓN:** We've got cane farming landowners that are looking at solar. And
14 what they're doing is they look at a solar opportunity and they may say, you know,
15 I've got 200 acres of land [INAUDIBLE] in the back of our fields that are low and
16 unproductive, and so the thought is maybe we take that unproductive land and
17 convert that to solar. We've had, you know, I had a solar group come and visit with
18 me to understand the sensitivities of land use in that area along Bayou Lafourche,
19 and I showed them the map and I said, listen, you know, if you take some land out
20 of solar along Bayou Lafourche, there's nowhere else to get that land to put it into
21 cane production. And he said, well, I'm understanding what you're saying, maybe
22 we should look at floating solar. So there's a bunch of different opportunities. I
23 don't know them all.

1 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Well, anyway, this farmer, he's one of the largest
2 farmers in Louisiana, and he's looking at a couple of thousand acres of his best
3 land, not stiff land, not -- best land, ice cream land as you would call it.

4 **MR. SIMÓN:** Yep.

5 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Well, he's way, way ahead of all the cotton he'll
6 ever grow --

7 **MR. SIMON:** I understand.

8 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** -- \$800 an acre.

9 **MR. SIMÓN:** Correct.

10 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** So it's sort of hard to tell a guy that's got 2,000 acres
11 or 1,000 acres and they're willing to pay \$800 an acre, you know, \$800,000 a year
12 and he doesn't have to fool with anything.

13 **MR. SIMÓN:** Yep. I understand that. As you move more into your area,
14 Commissioner, the sensitivities are not nearly what it is along Bayou Lafourche and
15 Bayou Teche where, you know, we've got a \$3 billion industry supported by those
16 sensitive acres. And so as you move further west and north, the sensitivities
17 certainly aren't as strong. You get out further west in Commissioner Francis' area,
18 where some of the poor lands in the prairie that have trouble even growing rice,
19 maybe it's appropriate for some of those lands. But to use tax incentives to
20 eliminate sugar jobs in really sensitive areas, we just question that. Why don't we
21 use those tax incentives to put less sensitive lands into production?

22 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Well, I appreciate your presentation. It makes
23 everybody think. But I want you to be aware that there are a lot of people being

1 offered these programs all over Louisiana. I've got -- my phone's ringing off the
2 wall now, people wanting to put solar on their farms, and the only people I hear
3 really complaining, no matter what their land is like, is the ones not getting one. So
4 I'm all for solar, but I do understand what you said, up and down the -- you have
5 an industry, I don't want to just destroy it. There's room for everybody and we just
6 have to work together to make sure that we don't destroy anybody. But keep in
7 mind that solar is coming, there's nothing we can do about it, it's clean, and it's the
8 future. So -- but I do appreciate you. You make some good points.

9 **MR. SIMÓN:** Sure. Thank you. And we understand your points exactly.

10 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Greene.

11 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Yeah. What percentage of --

12 **MS. BOWMAN:** Your mic.

13 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Am I on?

14 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** You're supposed to be.

15 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** What percentage of national sugarcane
16 production comes from Louisiana?

17 **MR. SIMÓN:** Louisiana produces, of sugarcane, we just overtook Florida as the
18 number one cane producing state. So there are only three cane producing states:
19 Texas, Louisiana, and Florida. Florida was a little ahead of us, but we just overtook
20 Florida as the number one cane producing state in America. Contrary to what most
21 folks in Louisiana think, there's more sugar in the U.S. produced from sugar beets
22 than sugarcane, but Louisiana produces about 20 percent of America's sugar
23 production. Every cane farmer in Louisiana produces enough sugar for 125,000

1 Americans. So, you know, that's pretty significant, that our state is so important in
2 food security for our country.

3 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** I just remember as a kid gnawing on a stalk and
4 nothing like it.

5 **MR. SIMÓN:** It's good stuff.

6 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Dentist didn't like it, but -- can you speak of -- is
7 it still a crop that you plant once and harvest for three years?

8 **MR. SIMÓN:** That's correct.

9 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** And then speaking of subsidies, just to try to make
10 apples to apples, what's the status of the price subsidy for sugarcane relative to
11 other crops?

12 **MR. SIMÓN:** Sure. So Louisiana's sugarcane farmers, contrary to popular belief,
13 do not receive any checks from the federal government. We can get into a long
14 dissertation on sugar policy, but what sugar policy does, in essence, is it -- we're
15 deficit producers in the U.S., so we have to import some sugar into the U.S. Sugar
16 policies stops countries like Mexico, that subsidize their production, from dumping
17 that sugar into our market and depleting and running us out of business. So we
18 don't get checks, USDA just manages imports to keep a balanced market.

19 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Okay.

20 **MR. SIMÓN:** Most of the other commodity groups have loan deficiency payments
21 and different kinds of payments where they're getting direct checks. Sugar farmers
22 do not get direct checks.

1 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** And do you know the status of the increase in the
2 production cost relative to the fertilizer cost in the last couple of years?

3 **MR. SIMÓN:** Well, you hear different stories of fertilizer, but fertilizer costs,
4 regardless of what commodity you're growing, you know, probably 100 percent
5 increase in fertilizer costs, fuel costs, all of those kinds of things. We're fortunate
6 that this year we're getting a little bit better price to offset some of that additional
7 cost. And you mentioned planting sugarcane. That's something that's very unique
8 about cane that makes solar concerning to us. So if you have a land man going out
9 to potentially lease solar and he goes and finds 10,000 acres and starts leasing up
10 land. Farmers -- so a farmer doesn't know if that land is going to come to fruition
11 with regards to actual solar development, but farmers have to make long-term
12 decisions. So you plant cane today and you grow off of those same roots for three
13 or four years. And so, you know, you have to decide to plant today, and in two
14 years you could have solar on that property and you've lost the value of that plant
15 cane and that planting. So just another unique aspect to sugarcane.

16 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** So if I understand you correctly, your two main
17 concerns are, I think, we have to think ahead on the decommissioning of solar, like
18 they didn't on the orphan wells, we have to do that a priority on the front end. But
19 also, if there's -- if the number of sugarcane farmers reduce to a critical value, then
20 those left are left with essentially the cost of producing it through the mills; is that
21 right?

22 **MR. SIMÓN:** Correct. Well, cane -- every farm size is increasing, so our cane
23 acreage is holding and even increasing a little bit. But what's critical are the milling

1 sites and having cane close enough to the milling sites to keep those sites viable.
2 So, you know, like you could take some land out in Napoleonville, Louisiana and
3 just say, well, Jim, y'all go find 2,000 more acres. Well, that 2,000 more acres is
4 only available in northern Pointe Coupee, and so then you've got to truck that cane
5 and it becomes not a viable proposition.

6 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** I've got a question.

7 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Jim, we -- in order for the electricity to be sold
8 on the grid, [INAUDIBLE] --

9 **MS. BOWMAN:** I'm sorry, you turned on the --

10 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** -- the people have to come before us and we sign
11 a power purchase agreement with them.

12 **MR. SIMÓN:** Right.

13 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** And in doing so, we're going to look at the
14 landowner's lease and there are not going to be any orphan wells in this deal.

15 **MR. SIMÓN:** Good.

16 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** And I know one of our experts here is Emory
17 Belton. I don't know if he's here, but he's been a go-to guy on making sure we
18 don't have any orphan well situations in there. And here's another thing I wanted
19 to point out. Yesterday I had lunch and I drank a coke sweetened with cane syrup.
20 And I'll tell you what, I guess Pepsi and others have it, too, but I found it much
21 more tasty than a dang old corn syrup.

22 **MR. SIMÓN:** Can I video you right now?

1 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Now, look, no offense to my friends in north
2 Louisiana growing corn, but I was really -- I was really surprised how tasty it was.
3 **MR. SIMÓN:** Yeah, it's the sweetener of choice. Thank you.
4 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. All right. Thank you.
5 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** I had a couple of just quick questions. You
6 know, one of the problems we're facing is if you look at the MISO queue for solar,
7 we've got way more people lined up for the MISO queue than we would ever
8 potentially put into use, so there's a lot more speculators than are ever going to be
9 put into production, and so that gives a lot of concern in general about what's going
10 to happen. A lot of people throw in million and \$2 million, you know, bets into the
11 market that they'll get selected, when what we know is at the head of the queue are
12 just a couple of companies flooding the funnel point to block everybody to keep
13 them out. So the speculators that are playing around with this are probably going
14 to end up losing money, but the goal for these tax credits is outweighing the logic
15 goal of achievement. So I want to have you understand that. But I think what the
16 Commission can do in trying to alleviate your concerns is when we look to, you
17 know, site approve these solar projects and work with them is to ensure that we try
18 to get folks to select land that is non-agricultural, non-productive and it's not going
19 to impact jobs. And I think this probably sounds like what your concern is because
20 they've got a lot of other land out there. And I've seen other places in other states
21 where they put solar in positions that is not technically on an agricultural facility.
22 I've seen them put it -- in fact, there's some discussion about putting it in
23 transmission right of ways and other areas that aren't utilized for any particular

1 purpose. But there's an inherent, you know, try to go to the simplest solution which
2 is, look, there's a big square piece of land right next to the road and there's a power
3 line and let's go put it right there, and that's maybe not the best thing for the state
4 and not the best thing for our state's economy, so perhaps we need to make things
5 work better for our state and that looks at a two sides of an equation. So I think that
6 the info you're bringing to us makes sense because, you know, if a piece of land
7 can generate more jobs doing one thing and keep the state productive than it can
8 with another thing, then we should encourage people to look at land prospects that
9 are doing it. And what you're talking about, water or floating solar, actually have
10 a little, you know, discussion experience with that where people are covering water
11 retention ponds and other things and actually stopping evaporation from water
12 ponds for animals where there are floating panels, and some fence work and we've
13 got -- I think we have water in Louisiana, so we've got an option with that. But,
14 you know, I think that's the interest that has to be sought for balance in this is
15 number one, you know, we looked at the -- I think the goal in Louisiana is at either
16 2,300 or 2,800 megawatts by 2035 and I think there's more than 9,000 megawatts
17 in the queue. Again, it's going to be -- the thought is whoever gets there the fastest
18 gets the mostest, and it's not going to work that way. The choke point is
19 bottlenecked and trying to starve people out of those things, so I do think it really
20 is going to come to the point where, you know, we'd like to see people pick land
21 that they're not going to cut down trees and be counterproductive on, you know,
22 doesn't that make sense unless they're harvesting trees through a planting process,
23 but at the same time, not to be in a position to kill jobs to create, you know, kill,

1 you know, 100 jobs to create 4 jobs, you know. And so I understand that purpose,
2 but I think the focus should be let's find places in the state that make sense and
3 generate knowledge and focus to drive, you know, folks to places that do makes
4 sense and keep them and suggest that they avoid places that don't make sense and
5 hurt the economy of the state. So, thank you.

6 **MR. SIMÓN:** Yeah. Thank you, Commissioner. I think that's ideally what we'd
7 like.

8 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Keep in mind, y'all are walking down a narrow road.
9 Real narrow, when you talk about government helping solar people. They help
10 you.

11 **MR. SIMÓN:** Yeah, they do.

12 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** It's the same government, now. Just let me get
13 through. Money is money, government is government. If you didn't have the
14 government helping you, y'all have told me for years and years there wouldn't be
15 any sugarcane people, if they flood the market. It wouldn't be 35 cents, it would
16 be 25 cents or 20 cents and they'd be broke. So we all living under the same roof,
17 and I hear you when you make speeches and we don't think that the government
18 ought to be giving them tax incentives, when on the other hand you think the
19 government ought to keep sugarcane out of Louisiana for you to prosper. That's
20 the same government, that's us, and you had good representation in Washington for
21 years and years and year, and I support that because I know a lot of you sugarcane
22 farmers and I know you have to buy tractors that cost \$300,000, I know that. And
23 but we're the same government. And our job up here, though -- and I'm just

1 speaking for me and I'm sure the rest of them will say the same thing -- our job is
2 that we've got to get electricity as cheap as possible, that's our job. And we've got
3 a balance. If for some way there's a new system coming and solar is new to us, we
4 can't shut them down because somebody doesn't like you giving government
5 incentives to do that. That's the only way we got it started, just like we give -- we
6 help the sugarcane farmers. If you didn't have the government, y'all wouldn't be
7 in business. We'd flood the market, you let everybody come in there, you said that
8 yourself. And we make sure that you have ample price for your product. But
9 anyway, so I'm glad we had this discussion. I learned a lot about the topography
10 of the land down there, I certainly understand that. Thank you.

11 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Chairman, just one quick thing for you. I
12 understand that the governor has a task force established to help local governments
13 with zoning solar. We had a problem in Tangipahoa Parish with local folks about
14 some zoning issues on solar, so perhaps, you know, a discussion with the task force
15 about, you know, understanding value propositions about zoning on agricultural
16 land that has job versus non-job issues might be an effective component to go into
17 the legislative rules that come out and play on these issues.

18 **MR. SIMÓN:** Thank you for that suggestion.

19 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Okay. Thank you.

20 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Mr. Chairman.

21 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Lewis.

22 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Yes. Well, I want to thank you, and I am -- I
23 understand your concerns, and I think it is valid. I mean, I do think there's a little

1 bit of a fallacy in that argument of the production of solar means the loss of
2 agricultural jobs because I think there's a way that we work together in this. I mean,
3 I think when we look at the Department of Energy, they predict that we'll have
4 about 11 million acres of agricultural land will be used for solar, so that's about a
5 half a percent of our contiguous United States land. I mean, so we're not -- it's not
6 an extraordinary growth, it is a growth. But I think there's some interesting
7 dynamics that are happening, so I wanted to ask, are you familiar with the National
8 Renewable Energy Laboratory?

9 **MR. SIMÓN:** I'm familiar with a number of renewable things, but I'm not
10 specifically familiar with that laboratory.

11 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Yeah. So -- and I didn't expect you to, so that
12 wasn't a trick question. That was more of a curiosity to make sure I wasn't
13 explaining something to you that you already knew. And so what they have been
14 doing is looking at agrivoltaics, which is the study of how solar and crops can grow
15 together and in this production, we're seeing these pilot programs across the nation
16 that has been balancing, I think, the concern of agriculture, but also, as Chairman
17 Campbell was mentioning, the demand and the need. And I think you're right, I
18 mean, we know that agricultural land is targeted for solar development because its
19 already flat, its naturally closer to roads, and its naturally closer to transmission
20 lines, which means the incentive of what we are trying to do with solar production
21 makes sense in an agricultural ecosystem. And so what I'm offering is I think
22 there's an opportunity for us to really work together and think about solutions that
23 doesn't destroy agriculture. And I'm not sure that I'm there yet, that the production

1 of solar has really produced the lack of jobs. I mean, I think we saw -- we'll see in
2 the new Farm Bill that I think congress is working on and some of the work that
3 was put in to some of the federal funds about keeping agricultural funding. But I
4 would love to sit down with you and some solar developers and have this kind of
5 conversation about how we do this because I think there is a way for us, if we start
6 talking, and I think you're right, we don't want to end up in a situation like orphan
7 wells, but I think that the strategy for us is how do we know what's coming for the
8 future, protect what we have been doing, but have everyone in an equal playing
9 field. And so I mean I think that is my challenge because I do think we use tax
10 credits a lot, and I'm a tax policy analyst person, so I can rip and rave about a lot
11 of tax credits that this state gives out that we probably shouldn't, but I am -- I'm
12 not sold yet that this is going to cause such a problem, but I think there are ways
13 that science is developing, if we have those constructive conversations, that bring
14 us into a place where agriculture is protected, but also the development of cleaner,
15 renewable energy that provides a cheaper cost for people is great because my
16 challenge is, if people can't afford their light bill, it's going to be hard pressed to
17 go into the store and keep buying your products.

18 **MR. SIMÓN:** Correct.

19 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** And so that cycle is going to come back eventually
20 at some point if we don't solve it, so jobs may be lost because there may be a less
21 of demand, and then we get into a point where Congress is changing agricultural
22 laws to import more sugar and so we're back at the same problem that you're
23 concerned with. And so that's what I'm saying, we probably need to step back and

1 do a little bit of a balance approach on, but I'm looking forward to hopefully sitting
2 down with you some more and really digging into this.

3 **MR. SIMÓN:** Yeah, let's do that.

4 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Hey, Brandon, you think we ought to have a
5 technical conference on this? It sounds like it's a pretty interesting subject, getting
6 bigger every day.

7 **SECRETARY FREY:** Well, there are, you know, I know we've all kind of
8 touched on it and y'all have touched on it. There are a couple of resolutions that
9 came out of the legislature within the last few years. I think one was last year, one
10 the year before that designated the Department of Natural Resources to adopt rules
11 on a couple of different issues. One is on this issue of the best practices for
12 permitting or model ordinances that came out, that was two years ago. I sit on that
13 group, and those rules are -- I think the draft rules have already come out now for
14 Department of Natural Resources. The second issue is the one about the orphan
15 well issue.

16 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Yeah.

17 **SECRETARY FREY:** Or the corollary of that, but that was adopted last year and
18 Senator Allain, and I think, Representative Coussan's resolution, adopting
19 essentially model rules about bonding requirements, that type of stuff, and we're
20 somewhat involved in that process as well. And there's actually a third group that
21 I sit on as well called the Emerging Energy Task Force, which is looking at
22 potentially taking items in the mineral code and transitioning those to cover solar,
23 wind, any other new types of technology, so it's being hit all over the place as well,

1 and maybe just giving an update on that type of stuff and the progress would be
2 helpful as well.

3 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I know just for the general public's
4 understanding, if it's real estate, that's the Louisiana legislature. If it's electricity,
5 it's the Louisiana Public Service Commission. I think we're both at play here and
6 it makes it -- when you've got two different government agencies, it makes it more
7 complicated, you know, but I think that -- it sounds like this train wreck's coming,
8 we need to address this here. Okay. Thank you.

9 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Brandon, do we have somebody on the
10 governor's task force?

11 **SECRETARY FREY:** Yes, me.

12 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Okay.

13 **SECRETARY FREY:** On -- well, I say which task force? There's multiple ones,
14 that's what I was just talking about. There's the Model Solar Ordinance, which is
15 the one looking at what Commissioner Skrmetta was talking about, like land use as
16 far as for as like buffer zones, location, that type of stuff. That one's been going on
17 for a couple of years, DNR is heading that. And then we've got the Emerging
18 Energy Task Force, which I sit on that one. And then there's the third one, which
19 is dealing with the decommissioning portion. We are directly involved in all that.

20 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Thank you, Jim.

21 **MR. SIMÓN:** Thank you, folks. I appreciate the opportunity to come before you.

22 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** You take care.

1 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Thank you for coming. You're very good at what
2 you're trying to do. Thank you. Kathryn.

3 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes, sir. We're ready?

4 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Yeah.

5 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 2 is Docket Number T-36555. This is the
6 Commission versus America's Towing, alleged violation of Revised Statutes
7 45:1177 and 1179 for failure to pay to the state proper fees for the years '18, '19,
8 and '20 for the inspection, control, and supervision of its business service and rates
9 authorized in Common Carrier Certificate Number 8035 pursuant to General Order
10 dated November 22, 2011. It's a discussion and possible vote pursuant to Rule 57
11 on an affidavit and stipulation executed by the carrier, so this will need two votes.
12 As a result of a routine review of the Department of Revenue's ISF logs by Audit
13 Staff, a citation was issued to America's Towing on October 25, 2022 based on the
14 aforementioned allegations. In response to the citation, the owner of the company
15 executed an affidavit and stipulation admitting to all violations. In that affidavit
16 and stipulation, the carrier agreed to the imposition of a \$1,000 fine and \$25 citation
17 fee with \$500 being suspended contingent on conditions. Staff recommends that
18 the Commission: 1) Exercise its primary jurisdiction under Rule 57 to consider the
19 affidavit and stipulation; and 2) Accept the affidavit and stipulation executed on
20 January 11, 2023 for fines and fees totaling \$525.

21 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Is there a motion on --

22 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I make a motion that we go under Rule 57 on
23 Exhibit 2.

1 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Second.

2 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There's a motion by Mr. Francis, second by Mr.

3 Greene, that the -- hearing no opposition -- is there any opposition? [NONE

4 HEARD] Hearing no opposition, it passes. Number 3.

5 **MS. BOWMAN:** Well, we need a vote on the actual recommendation.

6 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I move that we accept the [INAUDIBLE].

7 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Second.

8 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There was a motion by Mr. Francis, second by Mr.

9 Greene that we take this up on Rule 57. No objection? [NONE HEARD] So

10 granted.

11 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Motion to accept Staff recommendation.

12 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There's a motion by Mr. Greene to accept Staff

13 recommendation, second by Mr. Lewis. Is there any opposition? [NONE HEARD]

14 Accepted. It's passed. Number 4, right?

15 **SECRETARY FREY:** Three.

16 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 3 --

17 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Three?

18 **MS. BOWMAN:** -- is Docket Number U-35522. This is the Commission's audit

19 of the fuel adjustment filings for Cleco Power for the period of January 2018

20 through December 2019. It's a discussion and possible vote on a joint report and

21 draft order. On March, 31, 2020 consistent with the Commission's Fuel

22 Adjustment Clause General Order, the Commission initiated the fuel audit of Cleco

23 for January '18 through December of '19. Staff filed its audit report on June 16,

1 2022 with notice of the audit report published in the Commission’s Official Bulletin
2 and Cabot Corporation timely intervening. Based on this review and the audit
3 conducted, Staff found that Cleco Power complied with all Commission orders with
4 respect to charges allowed in the FAC, their accounting processes was generally
5 reasonable, and therefore resulting rates was generally just and reasonable. On
6 January 3, 2023, Staff and Cleco Power filed their unopposed joint report and draft
7 order requesting that the Commission issue an order accepting that joint report.
8 Staff recommends that the Commission accept the joint report and draft order filed
9 into the record on January 31, 2023.

10 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Make a motion we accept this.

11 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There’s a motion by Mr. Francis.

12 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Second.

13 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Second by Mr. Greene. Is any objections? [NONE
14 HEARD] Hearing no objection.

15 **MS. BOWMAN:** Hearing no objections, we’re moving to Exhibit 4, which is
16 Docket U-36 --

17 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** It passed. Sorry. Go ahead.

18 **MS. BOWMAN:** -- 222. This is Entergy Louisiana’s prudence review of the
19 management of the construction of the Lake Charles Power Station. It’s a
20 discussion and possible vote on a proposed uncontested stipulated settlement. On
21 December 9, 2021, Entergy sought the Commission’s review of the construction of
22 the Lake Charles Power Station pursuant to Commission Order Number U-34283.
23 Notice of the application was published in the Commission’s Official Bulletin and

1 LEUG intervened. Following discovery, Staff filed direct testimony and
2 subsequently, the parties entered into settlement negotiations and reached an
3 uncontested stipulated settlement. The major terms of that settlement are as
4 follows: The company complied with the requirements of Order Number U-34283
5 and satisfied all other requirements that the Commission may have applicable to
6 the project. Company's management of the construction of the project was
7 reasonable and prudent and that the project costs are eligible for recovery from
8 customers; and that the parties understand that there are additional expenditures
9 above the 861 million that are anticipated for the completion of the project;
10 however, Entergy agrees to file into the docket, and serve on the parties, a report
11 providing those final costs within 60 days of final completion. As there is no
12 unresolved issue, Staff recommends that the Commission accept the Proposed
13 Uncontested Stipulated Settlement filed into the record on November 23, 2022,
14 which finds that the construction of the Lake Charles Power Station was reasonable
15 and prudent and that the project costs are eligible for recovery from customers.

16 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Is there a motion?

17 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I'll make a motion.

18 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Francis makes a motion.

19 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** I second.

20 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** To accept Staff recommendation?

21 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Yes.

22 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay.

23 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** I second.

1 **CHAIRMAN:** Okay. Second by Mr. Greene. Hearing no objection so ordered.

2 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 5 is Docket Number U-36338. This is

3 Entergy’s application for extension of a gas rate stabilization plan and infrastructure

4 rider. It’s a discussion and possible vote on a uncontested stipulated settlement.

5 On April 22, 2022, Entergy sought approval for an extension of its current gas rate

6 stabilization plan for its retail gas operations for an additional period of 3 years and

7 an extension of its infrastructure investment recovery rider for a period of 15 years.

8 Notice of the application was published in the Commission’s Bulletin and no

9 interventions were received. After extensive negotiations, Entergy and Staff

10 reached an agreement and executed an uncontested stipulated settlement which was

11 filed into the record on December 29, 2022. A hearing on the settlement was held

12 January 10, ’23. The major terms of the settlement are as follows: Entergy’s current

13 RSP shall be extended for an additional three years; Entergy’s IIRR-G Rider shall

14 be extended for an additional term of 10 years to occur in calendar years 2025

15 through 2034; Entergy’s rate stabilization plan rider evaluation period adjustments

16 Paragraph 8 titled Other, Subsection A shall be amended to include clarification on

17 the type of adjustments that can be proposed under the RSC. As there are no

18 unresolved issues, Staff recommends that the Commission accept the uncontested

19 stipulated settlement filed into the record of December 29, 2022.

20 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Is there a motion?

21 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Motion to accept Staff recommendation.

22 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Greene moves to accept Staff recommendation.

23 I second it. No objections? [NONE HEARD] Hearing no objections, so ordered.

1 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 6 is Docket Number U-36365. This is Pointe
2 Coupee Electric Membership Corporation's formula rate plan annual report filing
3 for the test year ending March 31, 2022. It's a discussion and possible vote on a
4 joint report and draft order. PC Electric filed its '22 FRP Filing on May 16, 2022,
5 for the Commission's review pursuant to the provisions of Order Number U-35421.
6 Notice of PC Electric's filing was published in the Commission's Official Bulletin
7 and republished for an additional time for notice purposes. There were no
8 interventions. This is PC Electric's second FRP, and the '22 Test Year represents
9 the third and final test period of the FRP. PC Electric's initial FRP was authorized
10 in Order Number U-33917 which authorized an initial three-year term beginning in
11 2017 and set the earnings deadband as a debt service coverage between 1.35 and
12 1.55. In Order Number U-35421, the Commission extended PC Electric's initial
13 FRP term for an additional three years. Under the FRP terms, a rate reset would
14 occur to the midpoint of the upper and lower bands if the DSC ratio calculation fell
15 outside the authorized earnings. In the 2022 Test Year filing, PC Electric reported
16 a DSC ratio of 1.15 indicated that should an increase of its revenue requirement of
17 \$591,608 or a 6.74 percent change in its Rider FRP revenue. On August 5, 2022,
18 Staff filed its report and recommendation, and based upon Staff's review, Staff
19 recommended four additional adjustments. The effects of Staff's recommended
20 increase, the calculated DSC ratio to 1.17 on an adjusted basis, which is still below
21 the lower earnings bandwidth endpoint. Staff recommended that the cooperative
22 implement a rate reset to the midpoint which would increase its revenue to
23 \$555,840 or a 6.34 percent change. Upon review of Staff's recommendation, PC

1 Electric indicated that it accepted Staff's report, and they filed a joint report and
2 draft order into the record on February 1, 2023. As there are no unresolved issues,
3 Staff and PC Electric respectfully request that the Commission accept the Joint
4 Report filed into the record on February 1, 2023, subject to the conditions contained
5 therein.

6 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Motion to accept Staff recommendation.

7 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Second.

8 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There's been a motion to accept Staff
9 recommendation by Mr. Greene, second by Mr. --

10 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** I just want to ask a question.

11 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** You got a question?

12 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Yes, sir.

13 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay. Excuse me. Mr. Lewis.

14 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Yes. Can we just -- I know we know this, but I want
15 to make sure for the consumers just what that means on their bills. So when we
16 talk about the 6.3 percent increase what are we actually talking about in kilowatts
17 charge on their bill?

18 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** I can answer that. It's \$3.72 for 1,500 kilowatts
19 use.

20 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Great. I just wanted to make sure that the people
21 are -- as we're moving through that we are letting them know when we say these
22 things that the dollar amount. I think that is one of the questions that a lot of
23 constituents ask, and so when these come up, I will normally ask that we talk in

1 dollar amounts so the individuals watching know exactly what they are talking
2 about on their bills. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3 **MS. BOWMAN:** So there was a motion by Commissioner Greene, and I believe
4 a second by Vice Chair Francis; is that correct?

5 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Yes.

6 **MS. BOWMAN:** Is there any opposition?

7 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There's a second.

8 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I seconded.

9 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Francis second motion. No objection? Any
10 objections? [NONE HEARD] No objections, so ordered.

11 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 7 is Docket Number U-36625. This is
12 Entergy's application for approval of the Entergy Future Ready Resilience Plan
13 Phase 1. It's a discussion and possible vote to retain an outside consultant. On
14 December 29, 2022, Entergy filed its request seeking a public interest determination
15 from the Commission on its resiliency plan including the approval of a new rider
16 to prevent timely recovery of the Resilience Plan revenue requirement. Staff issued
17 RFP 23-01 seeking a consultant to assist with a review and analysis of Entergy's
18 request for approval of the plan rider. We received two qualifying bids. The first
19 was from Larkin & Associates for 74,820 in fees and 2,500 in expenses, for a total
20 budget not to exceed \$77,320. And the second was from United Professionals
21 Company of a 162,000 in fees and 1,500 in expenses, for a total budget not to
22 exceed \$163,500.

23 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Mr. Chairman, I have question.

1 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** I have a motion to accept bid of UPC.

2 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Just a second. I got something to say. I have
3 something I want to talk about. I want you to make sure under this docket, we have
4 -- this is a \$10 billion deal that I want to know where all the places that they're
5 doing all the updates, where they are. Entergy's -- wherever they say they got to
6 spend all this money, I'd like to know where they are, what parishes they're going
7 to be in. You know what I mean?

8 **MS. BOWMAN:** I do.

9 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** You understand?

10 **MS. BOWMAN:** I do.

11 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** \$10 billion deal, this is a huge deal. But I want to
12 see where all the improvements are going to be made, what they're going to cost,
13 what the estimated cost, and what parishes are they going in. They can do that
14 really easy. Okay. There's a motion. Mr. Skrmetta.

15 **COMMISSION SKRMETTA:** I got a question. Okay. Yes. I'm going to second
16 the motion of Commissioner Greene for United Professionals, but I did want to ask
17 you a question about the bids. Are the bids point for point, or are the bids
18 differential on what they bid for?

19 **MS. BOWMAN:** The bids are slightly differential. The RFP requested a scope of
20 work that went through or anticipated a contested hearing on the matter. Larkin &
21 Associates ended with just providing the report and then essentially said as needed
22 for additional information, but that wasn't included in the total fee amount. UPC's
23 total fee amount included a contested hearing.

1 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Okay. Subject to the fact that United
2 Professionals conformed to the bid, I second the bid for United Professionals.

3 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** You have a motion?

4 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Yes.

5 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** I second it.

6 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** I second it.

7 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** By Mr. Greene, second by Mr. Skrmetta to accept.

8 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** The other way, whatever.

9 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** United Professionals --

10 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Yes, that's fine.

11 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Any objections? [NONE HEARD] No objections,
12 so ordered. I want to -- let me read you what I want. I lost this, okay. Before I --

13 **MS. BOWMAN:** Okay.

14 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Before we go any further, I want Staff to provide
15 the Commission with a breakdown of those 9,600 projects, which I told you, okay,
16 and a estimated cost and by the parish. I just want to know where we're spending
17 all this money.

18 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Was that not part of the request when we bid it
19 out? Was this part of the request from UPC?

20 **MS. BOWMAN:** What Commissioner Campbell asked for?

21 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Yes. Yeah.

1 **MS. BOWMAN:** No, sir. I mean that will be part of their standard review in the
2 sense of looking at all the projects and determining where they are in the cost
3 components of it.

4 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Yeah, that's right.

5 **MS. BOWMAN:** But to be clear, the -- UPC was not hired to look at the projects
6 themselves. UPC is being hired to look at Entergy's request of how to recover, the
7 revenue recovery component of it. Next month we'll have a RFP issued and
8 consultant -- an engineering consultant to look at the actual projects.

9 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** For this? Okay. I got you.

10 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes, sir.

11 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Okay. Good.

12 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Next question. Next.

13 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 9 -- Exhibit Number 8 is pulled. Exhibit
14 Number 9 is Docket Number U-36642. It's Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative's
15 request for emergency rate relief and request for interim rates. It's a discussion and
16 possible vote on a request for interim rate increase pursuant to Rule 57 at the request
17 of Vice Chairman Francis, so this will need two votes. Pursuant to Order Number
18 U-36082-A, JDEC was allowed to implement emergency rate relief. In its current
19 application, JDEC indicates that the interest rate on its line of credit with CFC has
20 increased from 2 percent at the time of execution to 5.65 percent as of January 1,
21 2023. JDEC further indicates that due to this approximately \$200 million increase
22 in interest rates, the 2 mills approved by Order Number U-36082-A to make interest
23 payments to CFC are significantly less than the actual interest charges on the line

1 of credit. To account for the impact of this interest rate increase, JDEC is requesting
2 additional interim rate relief. JDEC's proposed interim rate increase is 3.65 mills
3 per kilowatt hour, which is the full amount of the rate relief requested in the
4 application. Staff recommends that the Commission exercise its original and
5 primary jurisdiction under Rule 57 to consider JDEC's request. While Staff makes
6 no formal recommendation regarding the interim rate increase, Staff does note that
7 pursuant to applicable law, any interim increase should be subject to refund and the
8 applicable bonding requirements. If JDEC's request is approved, Staff would
9 recommend that: 1) JDEC be required to file proof of the applicable bond
10 requirements with the Commission; 2) JDEC be required to file an update tariff
11 indicating the interim rate and its terms with the Utilities Division within 30 days
12 of an order approving the interim rates; and 3) JDEC cannot begin charging the
13 interim rate until proof of the applicable bond requirement and an updated tariff
14 have been provided to, and approved by Staff.

15 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Move 57 on Exhibit 9.

16 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There's a motion by Mr. Francis. Any second?

17 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Second.

18 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Second by Mr. Greene. Any objections? [NONE
19 HEARD] Hearing no objections, so ordered.

20 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I move to accept Exhibit 9.

21 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Second.

22 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Chairman, can I ask one question?

1 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There's a motion for Exhibit 9. Does anybody got
2 any objections to it?

3 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** No, sir. I don't have any objections. As I did in the
4 last one, I just wanted to put into the record that for a 1,000 kilowatts that would be
5 \$3.65 increase on monthly residential bills, and 1,500 kilowatts would be about
6 \$5.48 increase. And so I just wanted the public to know what those increases would
7 be. Thank you.

8 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Is there objections? [NONE HEARD] Hearing no
9 objection, so ordered.

10 **MS. BOWMAN:** We'll move on to Exhibit Number 10, which is reports,
11 resolutions, discussions. We have already handled both of the presentations under
12 discussions, but we do have a few vote ratifications that we need to get through.
13 The first is a discussion and possible vote to ratify interventions of the Public
14 Service Commission in RTO or ERSC related or other federal energy regulatory
15 proceedings. This matter is on the agenda for ratification of RTO or ERSC FERC
16 related proceedings pursuant to the scope of work approved in connection with the
17 retention of Stone Pigman and United Professionals for MISO, SPP, and ERSC
18 participation. Interventions were filed on the Commission's behalf in the following
19 FERC dockets: EL23-11 and ER23-816. These interventions were filed for the
20 purpose of monitoring issues related to MISO and/or SPP or other FERC
21 proceedings. Staff recommends that the Commission ratify these actions.

22 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Is there a motion to ratify?

23 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** I'll motion. I'll move.

1 **CHARIMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Lewis makes a motion, so I'll second. Any
2 objection? [HEARING NONE] Hearing no objection, so ordered.

3 **MS. BOWMAN:** The next ratification under Exhibit 10 is a discussion and
4 possible vote to ratify votes taken by Vice Chairman Francis acting as the
5 Commission's representative on the Regional State Committee of the Southwest
6 Power Pool. Staff followed the protocols set forth in Special Order 17-2019 to
7 consult with the Executive Secretary and the Chairman and to make a
8 recommendation to Vice Chairman Francis prior to the votes. The protocols also
9 require that the votes taken be ratified at the following B&E. There were five
10 substantive voting items before the RSC. The first voting item addressed a motion
11 to allow the Safe Harbor provision, which allows directly assigned costs to be
12 regionally funded and allocated under certain conditions to remain unchanged for
13 2023. Vice Chairman Francis voted yes to this motion. The second voting item
14 was a motion to accept the RCAR III Final Report as compliant with the SPP Tariff
15 and the required methodology. Vice Chairman Francis voted yes to this motion.
16 The third and fourth voting items addressed companion motions to approve two
17 revision requests instituted by the SPP staff and the Marketing Monitor Unit to
18 facilitate the transition from a 12 to 15 percent planning reserve margin. Vice
19 Chairman Francis voted yes to these motions in accordance with Staff's
20 recommendation. The fifth voting item involved a series of motions addressing the
21 cost allocation for transmission projects planned pursuant to the Joint Targeted
22 Interconnection Queue study with MISO to alleviate transmission constraints near
23 the SPP-MISO seam. And on the six motions Vice Chairman Francis voted yes on

1 all the items except for motion three, the region wide allocation of the project cost
2 assigned to load, in accordance with Staff's recommendation. Item three still
3 passed over the objections of Louisiana, North Dakota, and Oklahoma. Motion six
4 failed with four votes in favor and seven votes opposed, which dealt with generator
5 interconnection agreements and authorization to begin construction. Staff
6 recommends that the Commission ratify Vice Chairman Francis' votes taken on
7 January 30, 2023 as the Commission's representative to the SPP RSC.

8 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Move to ratify.

9 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Second.

10 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Do I need to abstain? I abstain.

11 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Commissioner Skrmetta votes to ratify, Mr. Greene
12 seconds. Any objections?

13 **MS. BOWMAN:** And for the record, Vice Chairman Francis said he abstains.

14 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** I abstain.

15 **CHAIRMAN:** No objections? [NONE HEARD]

16 **MS. BOWMAN:** No objections.

17 **CHAIRMAN:** So ordered.

18 **MS. BOWMAN:** Last ratification on Exhibit Number 10 is for OMS. It's a
19 discussion and possible vote to ratify votes taken by Commissioner Greene acting
20 as the Commission's representative on the Board of Directors of the Organization
21 of MISO States. Again, Staff followed the protocol set forth in Special Order 17-
22 2019 to consult with the Executive Secretary and the Chairman and to make a
23 recommendation to Commissioner Greene prior to the vote. The protocols also

1 require that the votes be ratified at a following B&E. The OMS sought approval to
2 submit to MISO a proposed additional guiding principle for MISO's MTEP annual
3 transmission planning process. After determining that this language was not
4 designed to expand MISO's review process, but was just seeking assurances that
5 meaningful planning information would be available generators, Staff
6 recommended supporting the language. And based on that recommendation
7 Commissioner Greene voted in support of the OMS pleading. Staff recommends
8 that the Commission ratify Commissioner Greene's vote taken on January 19, 2023,
9 as the Commission's representative to the OMS Board of Directors.

10 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Move to ratify.

11 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I second.

12 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** And I abstain.

13 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Greene abstains. Hearing no objections -- is
14 there any objections? [NONE HEARD] Hearing no objection. So ordered.

15 **MS. BOWMAN:** Still under Exhibit Number 10, we have two directives. The
16 first is a directive to Staff.

17 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Which one are we on?

18 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 10. The directives under Number 5.

19 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Yeah, I got you.

20 **MS. BOWMAN:** The first is a directive to Staff to expand the scope of Docket
21 Number X-35764, and I'll read Commissioner Skrmetta's directive into the record.
22 In 2020, the Commission opened Docket X-35764 - Cybersecurity Monitoring for
23 Commission Jurisdictional Utilities and retain the McQ Group as a consultant to

1 assisting Staff. Specifically, the docket was opened to continue coordination and
2 monitoring areas of cybersecurity and potential threats to Louisiana assets and
3 operations, as well as to continue participation with industry and regulatory
4 agencies, to ensure the flow of information surrounding cybersecurity continues
5 with the Commission. In the RFP for this hire, the Commission stated that at the
6 end of 24 months the importance and continued need for monitoring the area of
7 cybersecurity will be reassessed. Cybersecurity remains a concern for the
8 Commission and its regulated utilities with the issue becoming more prevalent in
9 our day-to-day activities. Therefore, I believe that there is a continued need for
10 monitoring cybersecurity as originally intended when this docket opened, and as
11 such I ask that the McQ Group submit a budget to Staff on a biannual basis for the
12 continued monitoring of cybersecurity issues until such time the Commission
13 determines the monitoring is no longer needed. Further, cybersecurity has been
14 raised in a few Commission rulemakings, particularly the electric vehicle and
15 resiliency rulemakings. The issue discussed in both dockets was the relevancy of
16 cybersecurity to each and whether the Commission should consider incorporating
17 cybersecurity into its review in either docket. Given the presence of cybersecurity
18 issues arising in other dockets, and in order to streamline the review of those
19 cybersecurity issues while maintaining administrative efficiencies, I direct Staff to
20 expand the scope of Docket Number X-35764 to include additional consultation by
21 the McQ Group on other Commission dockets where cybersecurity issues are
22 raised. As such, Staff is to directed to solicit the McQ Group for a proposed budget
23 to assist Staff in the EV and resiliency rulemakings as it pertains to cybersecurity

1 issues. Should cybersecurity issues present themselves in future Commission
2 dockets, Staff shall solicit the McQ Group for a proposed budget to consult on those
3 individual dockets as necessary, subject to Commission approval of any additional
4 budgets.

5 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Is there a motion?

6 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** I'll move.

7 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** No motion.

8 **MS. BOWMAN:** There's no motion. It's just if there's no opposition, the directive
9 passes.

10 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay.

11 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** And if I understand correctly, the directive is for
12 him to submit a budget and then we can--

13 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Yeah.

14 **MS. BOWMAN:** Correct.

15 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Now, is that an open bid process or is he the sole
16 bidder?

17 **MS. BOWMAN:** This will be the sole bidder because he's already hired on the
18 docket.

19 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Okay.

20 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Do we vote to approve these directives?

21 **SECRETARY FREY:** No, only if there's opposition, we do roll call votes then.

22 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Gotcha. Okay.

23 **MS. BOWMAN:** No opposition? [NONE HEARD]

1 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Go ahead.

2 **MS. BOWMAN:** Okay. And the next directive is a directive to Staff to request
3 quarterly updates on deployment efforts for the RDOF recipients that have received
4 ETC designation from the Commission. This is at the request of Vice Chairman
5 Francis and I believe Secretary Frey/Francis have something to say.

6 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Yes. I have been getting a lot of questions about
7 the RDOF recipients. Everybody is ready to get their internet out in the country.
8 And so we need to start getting some sort of a report and I think our local expert,
9 Secretary Frey, he can probably tell us something about that.

10 **SECRETARY FREY:** Sure. Mr. Vice Chairman, as you mentioned and I know
11 Commissioner Campbell has been getting these questions as well in his district,
12 there are a lot of questions about now that RDOF funding is available people have
13 heard that it's coming to their area, but they want to know when. And
14 unfortunately, and out of our control, the timeline that the FCC gave for deployment
15 is pretty far out, you know, they have up to five to six years to fully deploy. Based
16 on you and I's discussion, I think -- so last year in May we had gotten an update,
17 that's when the money was just starting to flow to these carriers. And they've got
18 certain percentages they have to build out each year and they gave us an update on
19 that. You just had a few connections that were available then. I think it would
20 make sense that we get a more frequent update from them as to the deployment
21 activities on -- I'd suggest on a quarterly basis, and then also get more granular
22 information from them as, you know, a parish specific basis, when do we anticipate
23 building out to Bienville Parish, when do we anticipate building out to Concordia,

1 depending on where they receive the funding. So, consistent with our discussions,
2 we will send that correspondence out, and when we get those responses, share it
3 with all of you, make that publicly available. Therefore, when we get these
4 questions, hey, look, I live in so-and-so parish, I know there's RDOF money
5 coming, when am I going to get it, we'll have a better handle on is this going to be
6 year one, year three, year five and address some of those concerns.

7 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** All right. I just wanted to also warn these guys
8 putting these pole attachments, running these lines, that do not put that on a pole
9 without having a contract, paying our people for the rent on those poles because
10 that's a direct impact on the rates. A little cash flow, maybe a little lower electricity
11 bill, okay. So do not get caught putting something on a pole without permission or
12 doing a contract.

13 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Skrmetta.

14 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** I wanted to add, and it's serendipitous you
15 brought this up, since at yesterday's NARUC board of director's meeting we passed
16 a resolution that regarding the RDOF money, that -- not to any great surprise, a lot
17 of people who bid in nationally into the RDOF money were unable to produce. And
18 so the gist of the resolution is to the FCC to not recover the money from the states,
19 and that if a bidder was unsuccessful in being able to perform under the contract
20 that the volume of the money would be resolved to each state to be reauthorized to
21 a different bidder. And so I would recommend to the Staff that they contact the
22 NARUC office and they can get a copy of the resolution that's being submitted to
23 the FCC.

1 **SECRETARY FREY:** Absolutely. And that's good to hear because I know that
2 was one the concerns raised if you had an area awarded then it's ineligible for other
3 funding as well and that was so this will help address that issue as well.

4 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Right. And it's probably going to be fresh off
5 the press.

6 **SECRETARY FREY:** Perfect. Thanks.

7 **MS. BOWMAN:** So hearing no opposition, next would be Exhibit 11; however, I
8 recommend we move that to the end of the agenda, since there is a possible
9 executive session, if that is okay with all the Commissioners?

10 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Yes.

11 **MS. BOWMAN:** Good. So we will move on to Exhibit 12 and come back to
12 Exhibit 11?

13 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Yeah, that will be fine. Is that what you want to do?

14 **SECRETARY FREY:** Yes.

15 **MS. BOWMAN:** That's what I recommend, yes, sir.

16 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Okay.

17 **MS. BOWMAN:** So then Exhibit 12 is Docket Number R-35462, which is the
18 Commission's rulemaking to research and evaluate customer-centered options for
19 all electric customer classes as well as other regulatory environments. It's an
20 update on the status of the docket at the request of Chairman Campbell. And even
21 though I think everyone knows you, would you please introduce yourself for the
22 record?

1 **MR. NOEL DARCE:** Good morning. Noel Darce with the Stone Pigman Law
2 firm. We're special counsel on this docket. And Lane Sisung with United
3 Professionals is here; they are consultants in this docket as well. This docket was
4 initiated in December of 2019 when the Commission approved the directive for the
5 Staff to research customer-centered options for all customer classes, as well as other
6 regulatory environments and recommend the plan for how to ensure customers are
7 the focus in Louisiana. The docket was also to address any proposals that were not
8 already being addressed by the Commission in other dockets, as well as options that
9 may mitigate the rising rates projected for Louisiana customers. There were several
10 interventions by utilities, customer groups, customer developers -- customers,
11 developers, and trade associations and others. The docket was a follow-up to the
12 previous Docket S-34426 that was initiated in 2017, that was known as the Status
13 of Electric Rates in Louisiana: Where are we and where are we going? And that
14 docket concluded with a report indicating that utility rates were likely to rise due to
15 replacement of aging generation and other utility infrastructure and declining load
16 growth for some of the co-ops. In this CCO docket, the Staff issued a first request
17 for information in August of 2020, seeking input from intervenors on the scope of
18 the docket and any specific proposal for consideration. It also sought additional
19 information from the LEUG on its industrial customer market option identified in
20 a previous filing. Responses to those requests received in late September 2020.
21 After review of those responses and researched by Staff, a second request for
22 information was sent on June 29, 2022 seeking specific input on potential retail
23 access issues and a technical conference was scheduled. A third request for

1 information was served in August of 2022 seeking specific retail access type
2 proposals. Responses to the second and third for request for information and reply
3 comments to the responses to the second and third request were received in late
4 September through November of 2022. A technical conference was held on
5 December 15, 2022 at which -- at that technical conference, presentations were
6 made by the LEUG, the Competitive Energy Suppliers, Entergy Louisiana,
7 SWEPCO, The Alliance, Earthjustice, Distributed Sun, Voltus, and Rayson
8 Corporation. Follow-up questions and answers were allowed after the technical
9 conference and they were received in January of 2022. Staff is evaluating all the
10 responses and information gathered prior to the technical conference and at the
11 technical conference. And at this time we believe that a report of recommendation
12 will probably be available in the third quarter of 2023.

13 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Third quarter, is that what you said?

14 **MR. LANE SISUNG:** Yeah. So everything that Noel just went over has been an
15 exercise in us really figuring out the scope of this docket because it's customer-
16 centered options plural. And so we've been going down every avenue and letting
17 everyone make the presentations and the proposals they want. We've now got it
18 narrowed down into a group of specific buckets. Noel mentioned some of them,
19 full retail access, limited industrial retail access, how to allow customers direct
20 access to solar. These are the issues that are in the docket. We have been engaged
21 not only in these technical conferences, but we have had separate meetings with
22 utilities, with the associations, with the presenters, you know, such as I know
23 Distributed Sun's been meeting with some of you guys. We've meet them; we've

1 had conversations with them. The goal is to get all of this wrapped up -- the goal
2 is to get everything wrapped up by the end of the year, but I would say each one of
3 those issues would be taken at a different bite. So it wouldn't be one big report on
4 all the issues. Each issue would get its own report, and our goal would be to roll
5 those out through the year. Best of plan.

6 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Greene?

7 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Yeah. I just want to thank y'all. You know, I
8 opened this docket, and I don't have a particular answer in mind. I just think that
9 all the answers should be on the table as we sort out what's best for Louisiana for
10 the next 20 to 50 years. And I just want to underscore how much faith we're putting
11 in y'all because our individual specialties don't know what the right answers are
12 and nor do I have a particular right answer in mind. But I have full confidence in
13 y'all to help advise us about what -- the direction we should, you know, push
14 Louisiana in the next 20 to 50 years really. So I know this is a broad scope and a
15 deep dive, and those are hard. And it's a big bite, but I think it's really important
16 and I'm very appreciative of y'all.

17 **MR. SISUNG:** Sure. And we appreciate that and we are listening to every idea
18 out there, meeting after meeting.

19 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** A lot of interest, a lot of interest.

20 **MR. SISUNG:** Yes sir.

21 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Francis.

22 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Thank y'all for your work. And Noel, your wife
23 dressed you very nicely.

1 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Any further questions?

2 **SECRETARY FREY:** We did have an announcement at the beginning we failed
3 to make, and since he's up here, I wanted to congratulate Lane on finally getting
4 married so.

5 **MR. SISUNG:** Thank you very much.

6 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Next.

7 **MS. BOWMAN:** So next is Exhibit Number 13, which is Docket Number U-
8 36301. It's Atmos Entergy Corporation's amended application requesting the
9 creation of an infrastructure expansion program for Atmos Energy Corporation's
10 Louisiana regulatory division. It's a discussion and possible vote pursuant to Rule
11 57 on an uncontested stipulated settlement at the request of Commissioner
12 Skrmetta. On March 2, 2022, Atmos filed an application, the purpose being to seek
13 approval of a framework by the Commission for Atmos to invest a limited amount
14 of capital in establishing a new service to customers under a set of parameters that
15 deviates from its standard main extension policy, without unduly burdening other
16 customers. Atmos' application was amended on April 11, 2022, which clarified
17 and modified that the -- modified the program by stating they it would not apply to
18 new residential subdivision developments and modify the program to not include
19 any expenses associated with promoting the program to customers. Notice of the
20 Atmos's application was published in the Commission's Official Bulletin with
21 CLECO Power intervening. After the filing of testimony, Staff and the company
22 engaged in further dialog which resulted in a mutual resolution set forth in the
23 proposed uncontested stipulated settlement. The major terms are as follows: The

1 parties recommend that the Commission approve the company's five year program
2 as set forth in the company's application and modified in the amended application.
3 The program would commence upon Commission approval and terminate
4 December 31, 2027. Atmos may expend up to \$500 per residential customers and
5 up to \$3,000 per residential customer for income qualified customers behind the
6 meter expenses associated with propane to gas conversion, and these costs shall be
7 recoverable as further set out herein -- or in the stipulated settlement. The \$5
8 million per year or \$25 million over the life of the program would be for all capital
9 investments and behind the meter O&M. Staff recommends that the Commission:
10 1) Exercise its original and primary jurisdiction pursuant to Rule 57 and consider
11 the matter; and 2) Accept the uncontested stipulated settlement filed into the record
12 on February 9, 2023.

13 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** We have a motion --

14 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** I was moving to bring the matter up under
15 Rule 57.

16 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Second.

17 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Skrmetta makes a motion to bring it up under
18 Rule 57, second by Mr. Greene. I make a motion we accept the uncontested
19 stipulated settlement by the Staff.

20 **COMMISSIONER GREENE:** Second.

21 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Second by Mr. Greene.

22 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Mr. Chairman, I just want to point out one thing.
23 We've hired UPC to crunch all these numbers, and so we've got some good help.

1 **MS. BOWMAN:** Yes, sir.

2 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Make sure these numbers are pretty much
3 standard and what everybody's being done. Okay. That's all I want to know.

4 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Hearing no objections, so ordered.

5 **MS. BOWMAN:** Exhibit Number 14 is undocketed. It's a directive to Staff to
6 open a docket to review inmate communication service rates at the request of
7 Commissioner Lewis.

8 **SECRETARY FREY:** Yeah, Commissioner Lewis, I think you had something
9 you wanted to read on that, right?

10 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Right. Yes, yes. I am going to adjust this and pull
11 the docket off, but I would -- given the recent actions related to prison phone calls
12 under the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act of 2022
13 and that it has been 10 years since the Commission has last looked at statewide
14 prison phone call rates compared to other jurisdiction, I am asking the Staff to report
15 the impact of these recent federal actions as well as the rates in other states and
16 report back to the Commission at the April B&E where Louisiana's rates and fees
17 stand compared to the other states.

18 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** I'll second.

19 **SECRETARY FREY:** This -- we don't --

20 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** There was a motion?

21 **SECRETARY FREY:** No, no.

22 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Oh, we don't need it because we're not voting?

23 **SECRETARY FREY:** Yeah, because he's withdrawing it as a directive. Right.

1 **MS. BOWMAN:** We do have one constituent that would like to speak, Ms.
2 Dominique Johnson, if she's still here. Yeah. Oh, there's a few more. And please,
3 the button lights it up in green and you're ready to speak, and then just please
4 introduce yourself for the record. Thank you.

5 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Yes ma'am.

6 **MS. DOMINIQUE JOHNSON:** Good morning. My name is Dominique
7 Johnson. I represent a nonprofit called Daughters Beyond Incarceration. We work
8 to enhance the quality of life for girls that are struggling with parental incarceration.
9 And so as in support of this directive, we work to provide services for these children
10 to communicate with their incarcerated loved ones. Initially, when we started doing
11 this work, there was a minimum of \$20 that you had to pay on Securus to actually
12 put an amount to support the communication with your incarcerated love one. That
13 has now changed to \$10. But what we want, in addition to lowering the phone calls,
14 is to be able to allow families to put an amount that they can afford to -- as a
15 minimum to start these phone conversations. In addition, we also have to
16 understand that if a person that's incarcerated has multiple children in the house
17 that he's talking to or that he's supporting, it's a struggle for that person to speak to
18 every child, every person in that house for 15 minutes. So when we do consider
19 this and we do bring it up back to the directive position, I would like for us to
20 consider that when a person goes to prison it's our ultimate goal to not have them
21 feel like their position in their family's life is removed, and one way to support that
22 is to ensure that they can communicate with their families via in person visits or
23 prison calls.

1 **MS. RENEE CARTHAN:** My name is Renee Carthan, and I'm from Lake
2 Charles, Louisiana. My father went to prison when I was seven years old. I am
3 now 34 years old, and up until three years ago, when my father was paroled, every
4 milestone in my life cost me. When I wanted to tell my father that I made the honor
5 roll, I was charged. When I wanted to tell him I was asked to prom, I was charged.
6 When I wanted to share that I was a member of Barbe High School's championship
7 track team, I was charged. Same for high school graduation, college acceptance,
8 and just about anything else. A 15 minute phone call is about \$2.50 at the current
9 rates, and at some facilities, it can be almost twice that. Anything less than a 10
10 minute call, you're basically just paying for the phone to ring. Imagine that burden
11 being carried by a single mother or caregiver wanting to make sure that their child
12 is still able to be in touch with and actively love an incarcerated parent. Or imagine
13 that burden being shared by a teenager with a minimum wage, after school job, or
14 even still a teenager with no access to any disposal income at all. While I'm now
15 relieved of this particular stresser myself, in my current role as an educator, I see
16 this everyday with my students. The effects of being deprived those support
17 systems have on them is immeasurable, emotionally, mentally, and academically.
18 And the effect that losing much needed resources that could be used for other things
19 in order to salvage those support systems and communicate with incarcerated
20 parents is just as damaging. Eliminating those costs or at the very least lowering
21 them to perhaps a blanket statewide rate of a dollar for every 15 minutes and
22 eliminating those mandatory minimum deposits, like Ms. Dominique said, will save
23 many relationships and in some cases, it will save lives. Many people make the

1 comment that if someone commits a crime, that they must accept the punishment
2 doled out upon them, but it's time that we remember the other people that are
3 punished as well by this manner of thinking.

4 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Thank you. Thank you for coming. Could I say
5 something on -- I want to say something that hadn't -- not to do with this, but it
6 does. I have three lawyers -- two lawyers, good friends of mine, and I don't need
7 to tell you their names, but anyway I have a situation up in Bossier Parish. They
8 charge people so much to eat. If you want to eat a honey bun or whatever, the
9 prison charges you for the honey bun. This guy, big provider, was bragging that he
10 had a honey bun machine now and he makes them for 5 cents and sells them for 4
11 bucks. That's tough stuff. If that don't touch you, you ain't got a heart. I'm telling
12 all of y'all, if that doesn't make you sick, you do not have a heart. Guy's making
13 a honey bun for a nickel and charging prisoners \$4 for it and bragging about it.
14 This is stuff that we can do something about and hopefully we can make some
15 headway. But when a guy brags about making a honey bun for a nickel and
16 charging \$4 for it, absolutely criminal, absolutely criminal. But anyway thanks for
17 coming, and we're going to have study done on it. There was a law passed, as you
18 know, and signed unanimously, all republicans -- no republicans objected to it, no
19 democrats objected to it. We'll see what the new law is and hopefully we'll have
20 some improvement. Thank you.

21 **MS. JOHNSON:** I'm sorry, Chairman Campbell, we're going to actually hope
22 that when we come back that we have a presentation for you.

1 **MS. BOWMAN:** I'm sorry, Ms. Johnson, I don't think your mic is on. Thank
2 you.

3 **MS. JOHNSON:** I'm sorry. Chairman Campbell, when we come back to present
4 at the directives, I hope that we can present to you a presentation that the girls in
5 our programs have prepared to help you guys support the lowering of these phone
6 fees.

7 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Thank you.

8 **MS. BOWMAN:** Thank you, Mrs. Johnson.

9 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Mr. Lewis.

10 **MS. BOWMAN:** I don't think he's on, Commissioner.

11 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** You on? These lights are green. If they were red,
12 you could see them. They're all green, but you got to have a special eye to see if
13 they're on. But anyway, I'm doing better.

14 **MS. BOWMAN:** We'll get you a little shade, maybe that will help seeing them
15 better?

16 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Yeah, you can shade, you can see it like that.

17 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Thank you. And I was going to thank them before
18 they left. And I wanted to clarify the reason I pulled the directive is because I think
19 there is some -- just more knowledge we need on this topic. As the Chairman
20 mentioned, under the Martha Reed Wright Just and Reasonable Communication
21 Act, Congress changed what perceived to be a loophole that some would argue that
22 the FCC did not have authority over in-state calls, and the now language says that
23 in implementation of this act, that they may use industry-wide average cost of

1 telephone services and advance communication services and the average cost of
2 services of communication services providers. So I think this report will help us as
3 we start to look, especially in this next 12 to 24 months that the FCC will be
4 promulgating rules what that impact could be in Louisiana so we can proactively
5 have some conversations. I think there are some discussions we have to have about
6 that. And this is why, I mean, I think, Chairman Campbell, you made mention that
7 this was passed unanimously so we have Congress' intent that they plan to work on
8 this. And I think as a Commission with regulatory jurisdiction, we should evaluate
9 where we stand with the other states and do that, and so I just wanted to clarify why
10 I pulled the directive and went to a report because I think there is moving targets
11 from the federal government that we should look at before we take any other action
12 here in the state. So I just wanted to put that in the record, Mr. Chairman.

13 **MS. BOWMAN:** So we will move back to Exhibit Number 11. Please, there is
14 an executive session but I ask that everyone stay in their seats until I get finished
15 reading it into the record. It's FERC Docket Number EL21-156. And it's the
16 Public Service Commission versus System Energy Resources, Inc., et al. It's a
17 discussion and possible vote to approve budget of Critical Technologies Consulting
18 for Phase II. It's also a possible executive session to discuss litigation strategy
19 pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 42:16 XX. So we can entertain a motion to
20 go into executive session at this time.

21 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Motion.

22 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.

1 **MS. BOWMAN:** Okay. If everyone now can please clear the room, and thank
2 you for waiting until it was all read into the record.
3 **[OFF THE RECORD]**
4 **[BACK ON THE RECORD]**
5 **MS. BOWMAN:** Okay. So we can now entertain a motion and a second to come
6 out of executive session.
7 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Move to come out of executive session.
8 **MS. BOWMAN:** Motion by commissioner Skrmetta.
9 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Second.
10 **MS. BOWMAN:** Seconded by Vice Chairman Francis.
11 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Move to approve the budget modification for
12 Exhibit 11.
13 **COMMISSIONER LEWIS:** Second.
14 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** That's a motion to approve?
15 **MS. BOWMAN:** That was a motion by Commissioner Skrmetta to approve the
16 CTC budget with the modification of the percentage and second by Commissioner
17 Lewis.
18 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** Second [INAUDIBLE].
19 **MS. BOWMAN:** No opposition?
20 **CHAIRMAN CAMPBELL:** None.
21 **COMMISSIONER SKRMETTA:** Move to adjourn.
22 **VICE CHAIRMAN FRANCIS:** Second.
23 **MS. BOWMAN:** We are adjourned.

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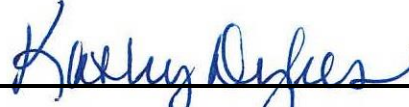
(WHEREUPON THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED)

3

1 I certify that the forgoing pages 1 through 83 are true and correct to the best
2 of my knowledge of the Open Session of the Business and Executive Meeting
3 held on February 16, 2023 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

4 *****


5 **Rough Draft prepared by:**

6 

7 **Kathy Dykes,**
8 **Court Reporter**

March 3, 2023

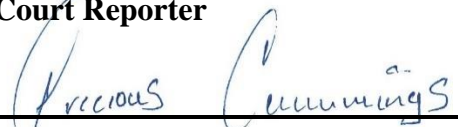
Date

9 

10 **Kayla Fiorenza,**
11 **Court Reporter**

February 28, 2023

Date

12 

13 **Precious Cummings,**
14 **Court Reporter**

February 23, 2023

Date

15 *****

16 **Proofed by:**

17 

18 **Kayla Fiorenza,**
19 **Court Reporter**

March 8, 2023

Date

20 **Finalized by:**

21 

22 **Kathy Dykes,**
23 **Court Reporter**

March 9, 2023

Date